

# MONSTER PREVIEW

# COLLEGE Football

The Sporting News

## Mississippi

Eli Manning is more than Peyton's little brother

## Kentucky

Wildcats try to keep their cool after 2000 meltdown

## Arkansas

Confident Hogs could surprise SEC

## Texas on top

Chris Simms will lead the 'Horns to the national title

## Know it all

Complete coverage of all 116 Division 1-A teams

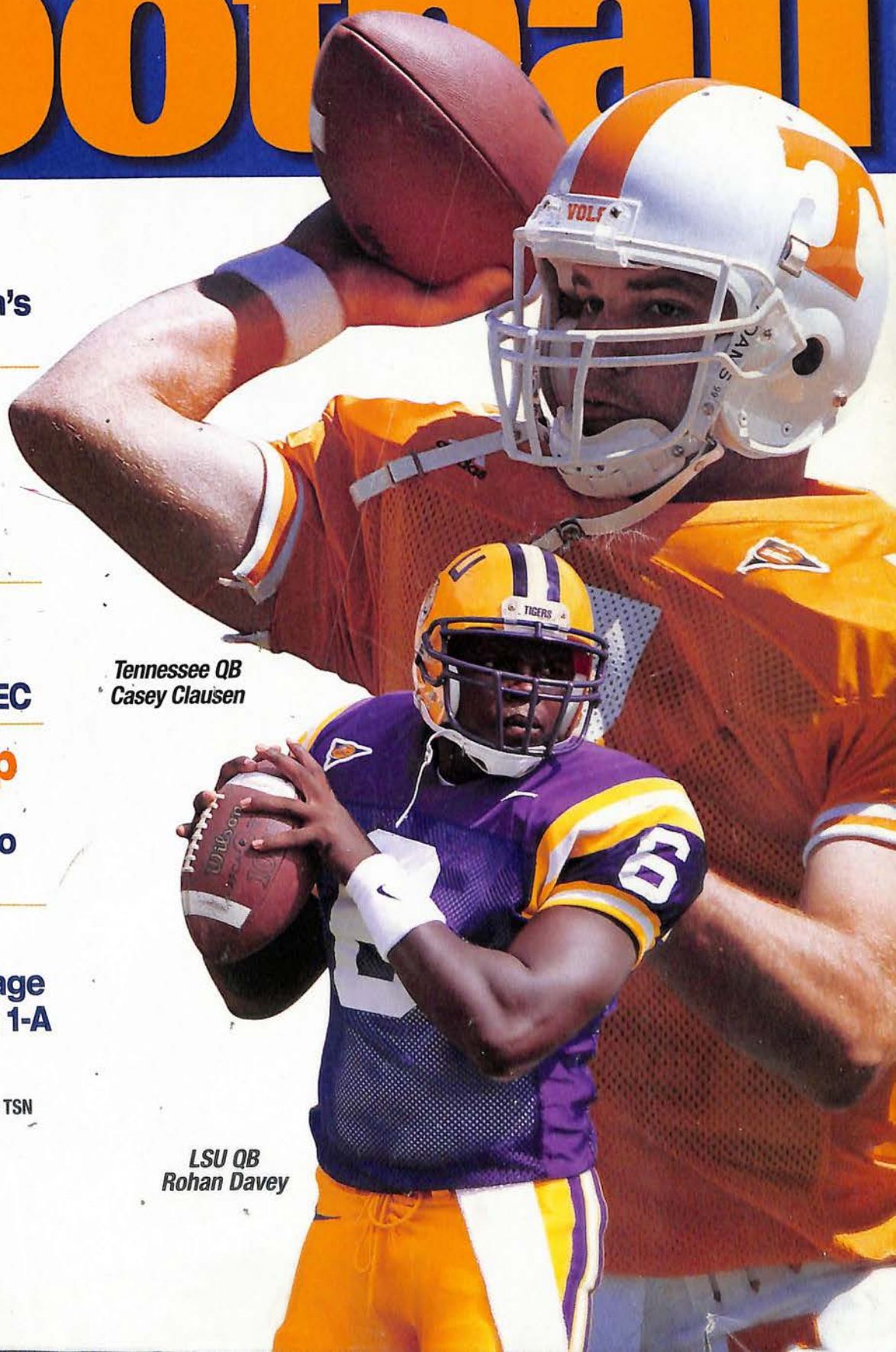
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LSU QB  
Rohan Davey







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# Letter from the Managing Editor

## A major programming change

Matters of equality—or inequality—in college athletics have turned up controversial legislation that hasn't been embraced by many in the football community. As the NCAA continues to press the hot-button issue of gender equity, we at The Sporting News have rendered a decision on conference equity that we're sure will please a majority of our readers and yet, undoubtedly, disappoint and frustrate a minority of them.

Though the Sun Belt enthusiasts among our readers might not like it—and supporters of Conference USA and the Western Athletic might loathe it—we resolved to make more room for the big boys. Once heaping more pages onto our *College Football* yearbook was eliminated as an option, we had to figure out how to create additional space for forecasting the seasons of the best (and most popular) teams in the land. Naturally, that

came at some expense to our previews of the teams nearer to the bottom of the scale.

Previously, TSN devoted one full page to, say, Nebraska and Florida State, and one full page to, say, UAB and Rice. Equitable? Yes. Prudent? Perhaps not. Though we long ago knew that the typical fan was more likely to cheer for the Big Ten than the Mid-American, we now can consult absolute, irrefutable numbers that attest to the need for us to write far more about the Michigan Wolverines than the Central Michigan Chippewas.

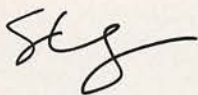
Those numbers come straight from you, our readers, and your visits to our ever-growing website ([www.sportingnews.com](http://www.sportingnews.com)) and,

more specifically, to our college football team pages ([www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams](http://www.sportingnews.com/cfootball/teams)). They fall in line with the philosophy that also helps guide our weekly magazine and our broadcasting arm, Sporting News Radio: Make room—and lots of it—for the big boys.

Which programs get the most play in this yearbook? One of them is Texas, our pick as No. 1 and home to star quarterback Chris Simms, our pick to win the Heisman Trophy. For previews of the Longhorns and 39 other teams—the top 40 teams in the nation, as we see them—we've devoted at least twice as much space as we did in 2000. All of the remaining 76 teams in Division I are previewed individually, in most cases every bit as thoroughly (if not more) as before.

I sincerely believe this yearbook will appeal to more readers than last year's did. Meanwhile, I know some of you will have a bone to pick with TSN. As always, please feel free to contact me and share your reactions.

You can write Steve Greenberg at [sgreenberg@sportingnews.com](mailto:sgreenberg@sportingnews.com) or at 10176 Corporate Square Drive, Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63132.



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□ Kentucky	\$660,000	□ Toledo	\$1,000,000
□ Louisiana Tech	\$510,000	□ Tulane	\$610,000
□ Louisville	\$1,100,000	□ UCLA	\$1,625,000
□ LSU	\$1,550,000	□ Utah	\$715,000
□ Marshall	\$1,350,000	□ Virginia	\$775,000
□ Maryland	\$825,000	□ Virginia Tech	\$1,765,000
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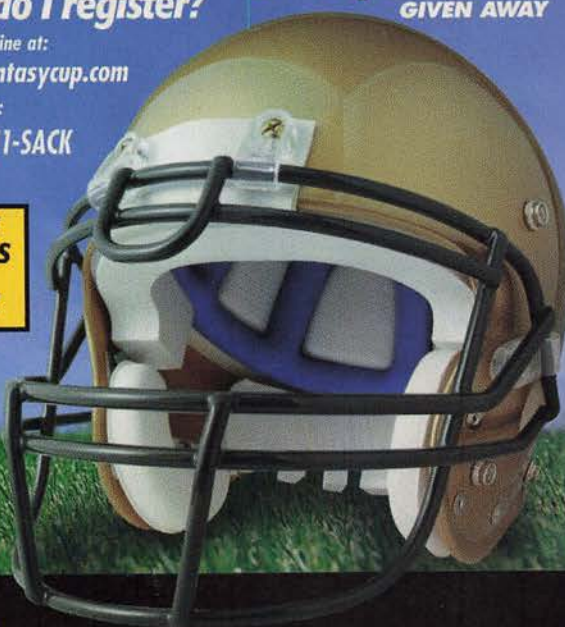
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# Scouting





# the Nation

WITH THREE CONTENDERS FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND SURPRISINGLY TOUGH TEAMS IN ITS LOWER TIER, THE BIG 12 IS THE BEST CONFERENCE IN THE LAND By Matt Hayes

So it took a little longer than expected. But the way things are shaping up for 2001, it was worth it. Three teams, three legitimate national title contenders. All in one bustling, burgeoning superconference.

The Big 12 finally has arrived.

"If you're looking at it now," says Nebraska coach Frank Solich, "this is how everyone envisioned it could be."

The Big 12, the conference of the new millennium. A resounding start in 2000 marked by Oklahoma's reappearance on the national scene and eventual national championship actually could be surpassed a season later. Five years removed from its ballyhooed birth, the Big 12 has evolved into the best football conference in the nation.

Better than the SEC, better than the Big Ten.

So it took a little longer than expected. So what?

"I've played and coached in a few different conferences," says Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops, who played at Iowa and was an assistant at Florida. "I can't imagine it being any harder than it is right here, right now."

It all starts at the top. Texas, which is steeped in history but recently was far from ready to enter the national title hunt, now is primed for a run at glory. Nebraska, which won three national titles in the 1990s, is loading up the Big Red 18-wheeler again. And Oklahoma, full of talent and confidence, will try again to find Sooner Magic.

Then there are Kansas State and Colorado, both serious contenders for New Year's Day bowls; a second tier that includes at least two other potential bowl teams in Iowa State and Texas Tech; and a surprisingly formidable lower half.

The Big 12 really has arrived. All it lacks now is history and championships. Then again, if one of this year's Big Three wins it all, that would be three national titles in the first six years of the conference. How's that for history?

Nebraska QB  
Eric Crouch



## Conference rankings

In the wild and wacky world of college football arguments, conference supremacy is still the most passionate of all. That BCS thing is a blip in comparison. Let the arguing begin:

**1. Big 12.** Three national championship contenders and a lower half that's quickly becoming competitive because quality young coaches are on site. Oklahoma and Texas are loaded, and Nebraska needs only consistency from its defense. Kansas State is good for 10

wins, and Colorado—with star sophomores Marcus Houston and Craig Ochs—is dangerous.

**2. Southeastern.** Two years of youth and big-game losses are about to pay off for the SEC. Florida is a legitimate national title contender, and Tennessee and LSU will battle for at-large spots in the BCS bowls. Keep an eye on Alabama and Georgia, two talented teams that underachieved last season but have new coaches.

**3. Pac-10.** The Great Northwest has the conference upside down. Washington, Oregon and Oregon State are on top; USC, UCLA and Stanford are fighting for respect. Still, there's plenty of offense and more competition throughout the lower half of the league.

**4. Big Ten.** No clear favorite, no clear national title contender.

When was the last time Michigan, Ohio State or Wisconsin wasn't the preseason favorite? This year's favorite, Northwestern, gave up 66 points in its bowl game last season. Not good.

**5. Big East.** It's still Miami and Virginia Tech and then everyone else, though Pittsburgh is beginning to make noise behind underrated coach Walt Harris. Look for new coach Rich Rodriguez to liven up things at West Virginia.

**6. Atlantic Coast.** It's now or never for the Eight Dwarfs. Florida State, king since its arrival in the league in 1992, is prime for the taking. Georgia Tech, with Heisman Trophy candidate George Godsey and a stout defense, is a sleeper in the race for the Rose Bowl.

**7. Conference USA.** Texas Christian, which played last year in the WAC, immediately makes the league stronger. Louisville, East Carolina and Southern Miss are solid, not to mention dangerous nonconference opponents for teams looking for cupcakes (read: SEC teams).

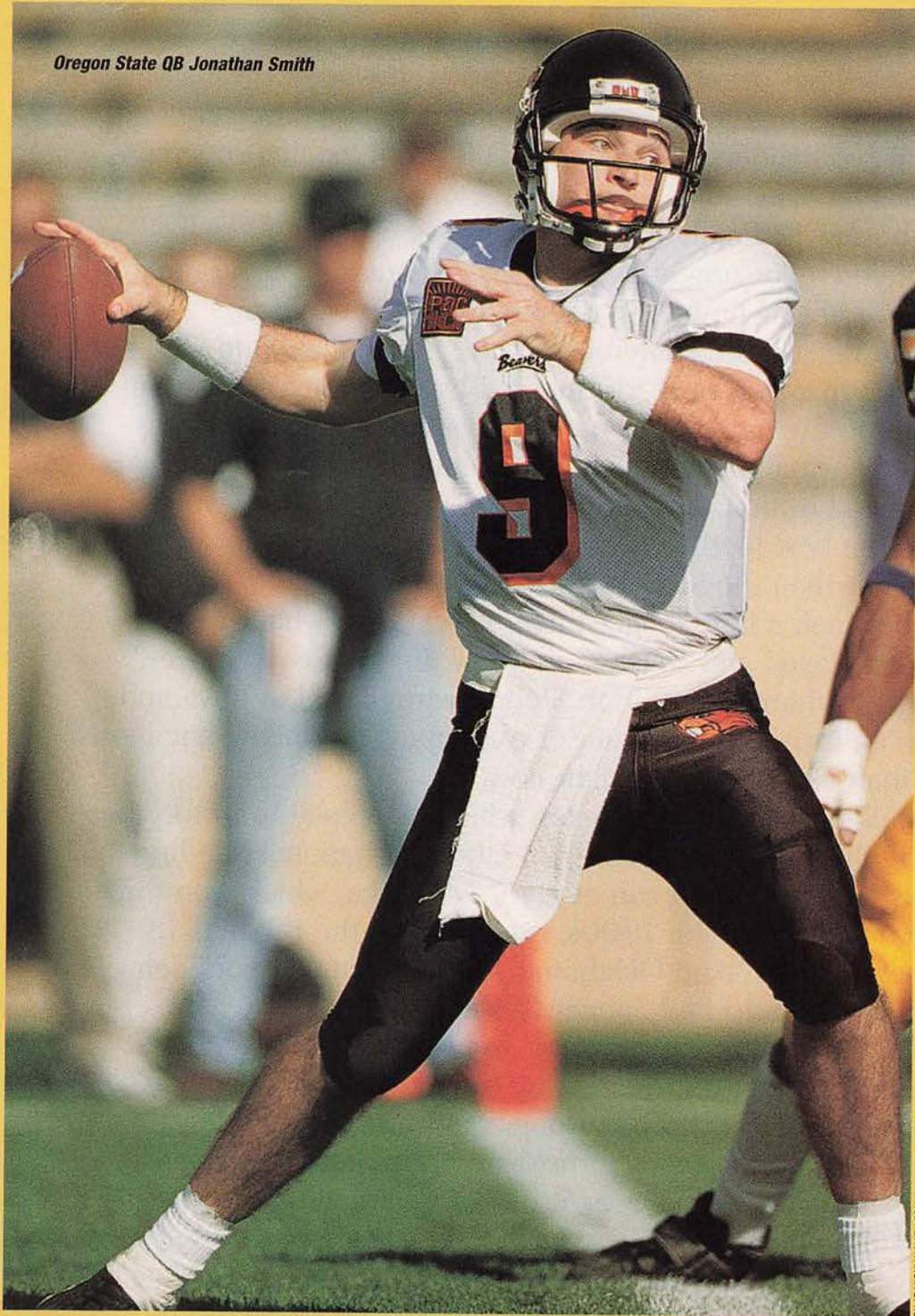
**8. Mountain West.** Colorado State clearly has become the elite of the league under coach Sonny Lubick. Expect BYU to make a strong return under new coach Gary Crowton, whose youth and enthusiasm—and wide-open offense—will attract recruits to Provo.

**9. Mid-American.** The MAC is good for at least one Big Ten upset this year—that's not even an issue. The question is: Can anyone take the title from Marshall?

**10. Western Athletic.** TCU's departure hurts the WAC, but the conference gains a rising program in Boise State. Game to watch: San Jose State trying to make it four in a row over Stanford.

**11. Sun Belt.** This first-year conference has a long way to go and awful travel plans: from Louisiana to New Mexico to Idaho to Tennessee. Earn those frequent-flier miles, fellas.

Oregon State QB Jonathan Smith

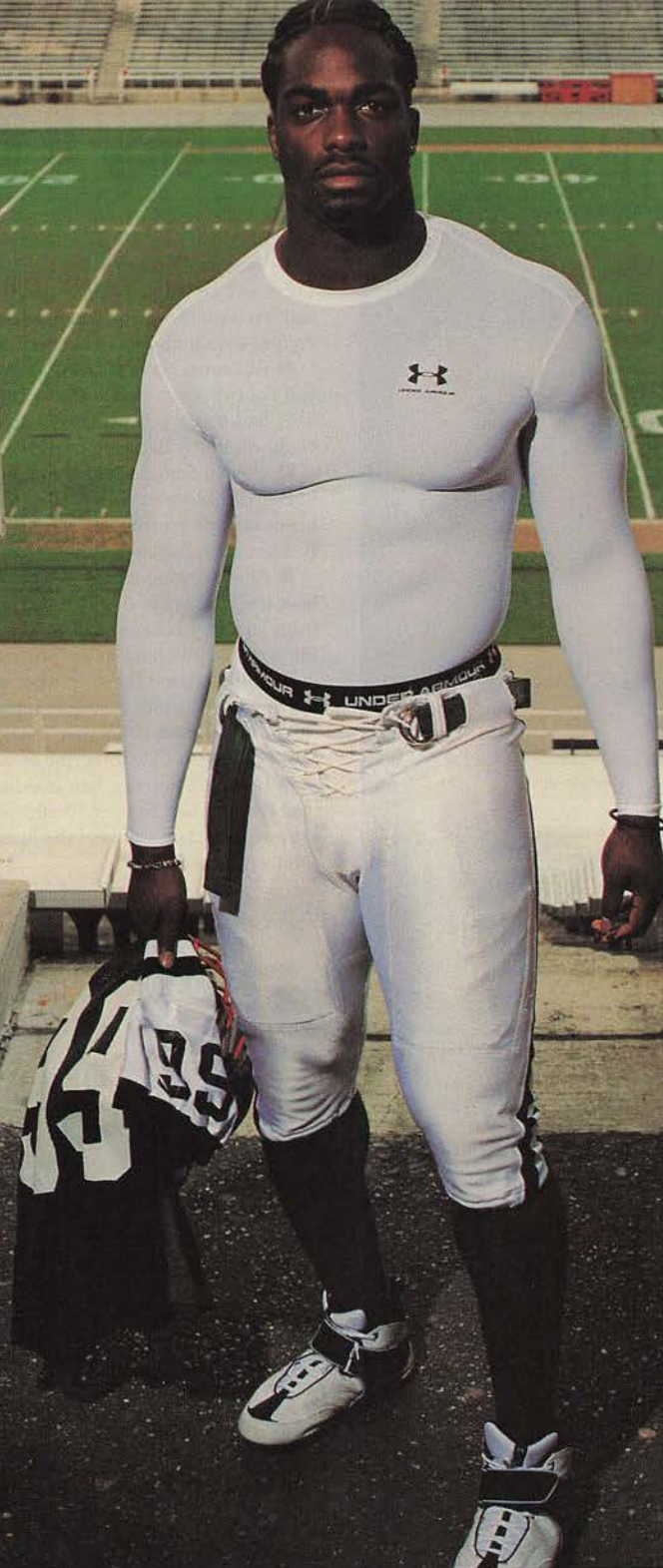


DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN





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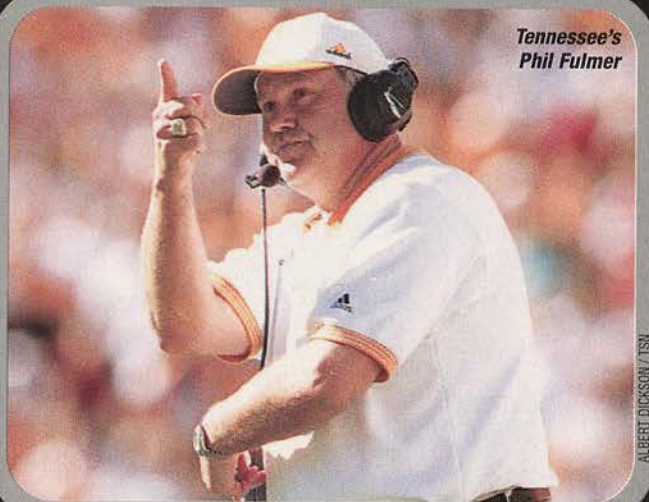
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Tennessee's  
Phil Fulmer



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

**Tennessee at Florida, September 15.** What will be more jumbled at kickoff: Florida's quarterback situation or Phil Fulmer's psyche? The Gators are tough to beat at the Swamp, and even tougher when the Vols are on the other sideline. The winner gets the inside track to the SEC championship game and a strong start toward Pasadena.

**Oklahoma vs. Texas in Dallas, October 6.** You have to think Mack Brown has heard about those 63 points a few times from Texas boosters. And how Oklahoma took an impromptu team picture on the Cotton Bowl field after spanking the 'Horns by 49 points. And how he's getting the reputation of being a good recruiter but a poor game-day coach.

**Oklahoma at Nebraska, October 27.** Big Red figures to have its I-back situation straightened out by then, but the questions on defense are a completely different story. The Memorial Stadium crowd will help, but if Oklahoma QB Nate Hybl handles the Texas game three weeks earlier, the Sooners will get out of Lincoln, too.

**Florida State at Florida, November 17.** You can set your calendar by it—the Seminoles and Gators play the third weekend of November, and it's usually a BCS elimination game. Both have testy spots to get past before the annual game of the year, but one will end the game in position to make a run at the Rose Bowl.

**Oregon State at Oregon, December 1.** ABC paid each school \$600,000 to push the game back two weeks for a national telecast the last week of the season (and to gig the SEC for taking its championship game to CBS for more bucks). National title hopes could be on the line for either school; even if they're not, the nation will get a firsthand look at the Autzen Zoo and the spectacle that is the Civil War.

**Miami at Virginia Tech, December 1.** If all goes as planned with Virginia Tech's cake schedule, the Hokies could be playing for a spot in the Rose Bowl, and the computers will be going haywire with strength-of-schedule issues. But will the 'Canes still be in the Rose Bowl hunt after a home game against Washington and road games at Penn State, Pittsburgh and Florida State?

## The way it will be

We know it's scary out here on the limb. But come sit with us anyway while we forecast the 2001 season:

■ Virginia Tech's defense, led by ends Nathaniel Adibi and Lamar Cobb, will be better than the 1999 unit that terrorized teams. But with no Vick the Quick, the unbeaten Hokies will lose to Miami in the regular-season finale and be relegated to the Gator Bowl.

■ Alabama, rid of secretary scandals and slush funds (we think), will flourish again under new coach Dennis Franchione. The talented Tide had better get it while it can; the looming NCAA probation could set things back the next couple of years.

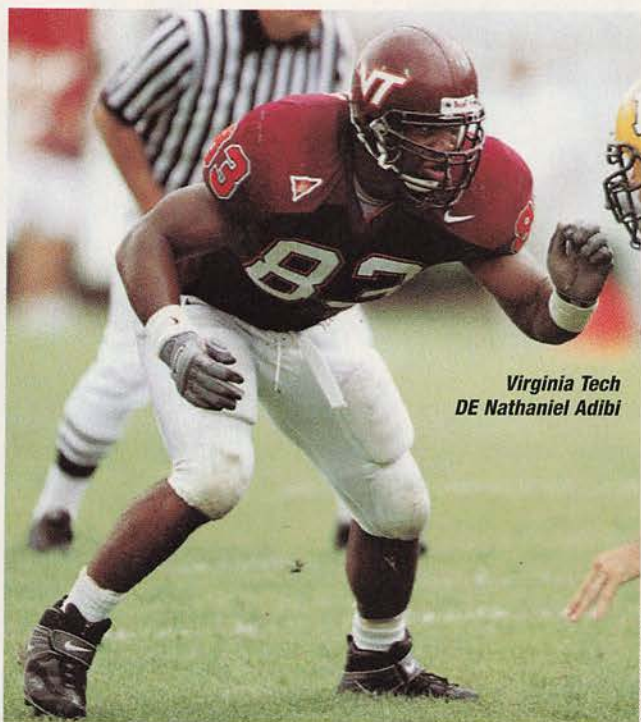
■ Oregon State tailback Ken Simonton will become the first back in Pac-10 history to rush for 1,000 yards in all four seasons, but key losses at wide receiver and on the defensive line will keep the Beavers from playing in another BCS game.

■ After blowing its last two games against Nebraska, Colorado will beat the Huskers at Boulder and complete a remarkable turnaround from an injury-plagued 2000. The Buffs will knock Nebraska from the national title hunt in the process.

■ Florida coach Steve Spurrier will change quarterbacks before the Tennessee game, throwing sophomores Rex Grossman and Brock Berlin into the pit of another controversy. The Gators will beat the Vols but lose to LSU three weeks later using both of them.

■ Deonce Whitaker, San Jose State's mighty-mite tailback, will lead the Spartans to their fourth consecutive victory over Stanford. Fresno State then will beat the Spartans in the last week of the season to win the WAC.

Virginia Tech  
DE Nathaniel Adibi



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

### Instant help

These junior college players should deliver immediate results this fall:

CB Korey Banks, Garden City (Kan.) CC (Mississippi State).

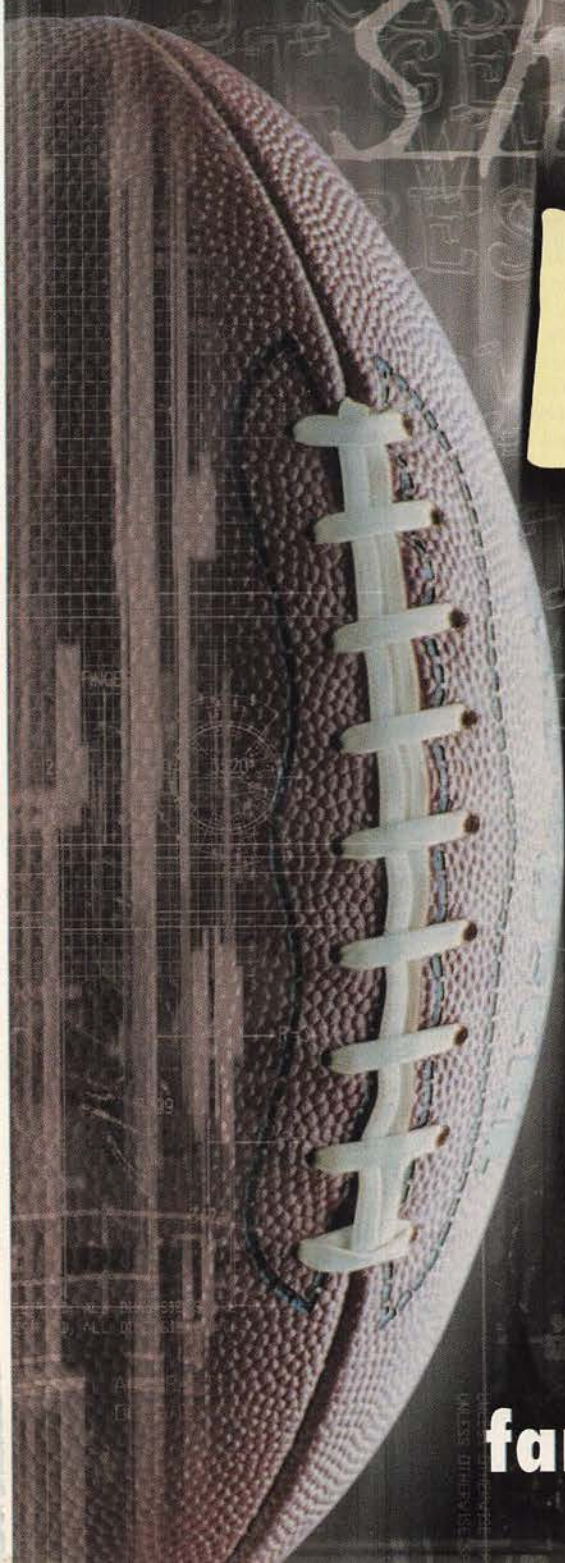
DT Torran Williams, Dodge City (Kan.) CC (LSU).

QB Marc Dunn, Ricks (Idaho) College (Kansas State).

OT Milford Brown, East Mississippi JC (Florida State).

CB D.J. Coote, Ventura (Calif.) JC (Oregon State).





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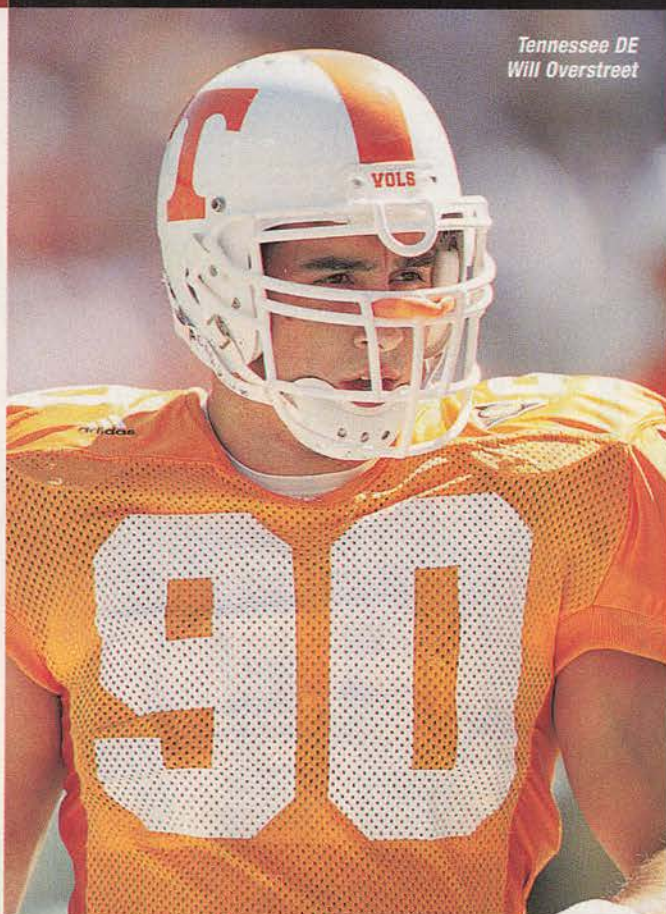
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Tennessee DE  
Will Overstreet

## Hidden gems

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Five players who will thrive without the spotlight:

**1. DE Will Overstreet, Tennessee, senior.** A nagging back injury hampered his 2000 season, but he still managed 17 quarterback hurries. He's healthy again, and those hurries will turn into sacks with John Henderson clogging the middle.

**2. QB Jason Thomas, UNLV, junior.** The running game is depleted, so coach John Robinson will open things up for the gifted Thomas, who could be the first quarterback taken in the 2002 NFL draft.

**3. QB Timmy Chang, Hawaii, sophomore.** He threw for more than 3,000 yards as a true freshman last season, and the rebuilt Warriors are primed to compete again for a WAC title.

**4. CB Jemeel Powell, California, junior.** He didn't start until midway through last season, and he still had 16 pass breakups. By the end of the year, teams were throwing away from him.

**5. RB Adrian Peterson, Georgia Southern, senior.** So it's Division I-AA. So what? He has 5,100 career rushing yards in fewer than three full seasons, and he has 39 100-yard games, including a run of 31 straight. NFL scouts love him.

## YOUNG GUNS

They're right out of high school and ready to roll. A look at the nation's top impact freshmen:

**1. DE Shaun Cody, Southern California.** The Trojans are desperate for a pass rusher, and Cody (6-5, 240) has the potential to contribute immediately.

**2. DB Ernest Shazor, Michigan.** The secondary is a huge concern for Michigan, which needs a physical presence at strong safety.

**3. DT Tommie Harris, Oklahoma.** Defensive tackle is one of the few areas where the Sooners are thin, and Harris has the strength and ability to start.

**4. WR Roscoe Crosby, Clemson.** The Tigers must find help for erratic QB Woodrow Dantzler, and Crosby (6-2, 195) is ready physically to compete.

**5. TB Jabari Davis, Tennessee.** He reminds many of former Vols back Jamal Lewis, and he'll separate from a group of heralded recruits to win the job and give Tennessee balance.

## FEELIN' THE HEAT



Syracuse's  
Paul Pasqualoni

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

These coaches had better win now—or else. **Terry Allen, Kansas.** First sign Allen might not be working out: last year's season opener when—ahem—SMU jumped out to a 24-0 lead in the first quarter. Then again, there was that big win last year (the goalposts came down) over the worst Colorado team in the last decade. So Allen has that going for him. Home games against UCLA and Big 12 heavies Oklahoma and Nebraska will have KU fans thinking of roundball sooner than usual.

**Tom Holmoe, California.** His specialty is defense. One big problem: No one in the Pac-10 cares about defense. So Holmoe hired respected offensive coordinator Al Borges from UCLA to help energize the offense and jump-start talented but erratic junior QB Kyle Boller. If things don't improve, Holmoe's string of four consecutive losing seasons at Berkeley (15-29 overall) will reach five. And he won't be around to make it a six-pack.

**Paul Pasqualoni, Syracuse.** A combination of things has Pasqualoni on shaky ground. The Orangemen have been average the past two seasons, and even when they made it to the Orange Bowl in 1998, they were embarrassed by an underachieving Florida team. There's an air of

uncertainty surrounding the program, and two years without a game-breaking quarterback has stalled the Freeze Option. Syracuse should be competing for Big East titles. Instead, the Orangemen are battling to stay in the top half of the league.

**R.C. Slocum, Texas A&M.** There's too much money and too many expectations in College Station for Slocum to survive with mediocre teams. The Aggies have lost four consecutive bowl games and simply aren't winning big games anymore. A&M lost three in a row to finish the season, and it has lost nine games over the past two. Texas and Oklahoma are rising in the Big 12 South Division, and the Aggies are slipping. Not a good sign.

**Bob Toledo, UCLA.** After five years in Westwood, he's just 35-23. He has lost two straight to USC, and he lost another bowl game to crawl-ball king Wisconsin last season. What's more, the Bruins are losing ground in the Pac-10 and losing recruits to Washington and the Oregon schools. Injuries have been a big factor the past two seasons, but when are injuries not a part of a season? The Bruins had better beat USC this season, or Toledo will be looking for another job.



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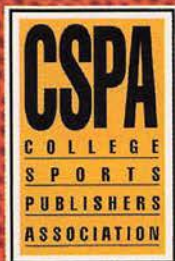
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# Answer Man

The Answer Man cometh with solutions to the burning questions of the season:

**OK, Answer Man, right out of the gate, who'll win it all?**

Patience. Do you want inside analysis, overbearing opinion and cutting wit? Or do you want some blowhard saying Texas will beat Oregon in the Rose Bowl? Hang on, I'm answering questions here. Let's move on.

**What is the key to a national title run?**

Quarterbacks who make good decisions, pure and simple. Check out the last five

quarterbacks on national championship teams: Josh Heupel, Oklahoma (2000); Chris Weinke, FSU (1999); Tee Martin, Tennessee (1998); Brian Griese, Michigan (1997); and Danny Wuerffel, Florida (1996). See the connection? It's not about how hard or how far you can throw the ball. It's about putting the ball where it should be a majority of the time. Two quarterbacks who will do it as well as anyone this season: Oregon's Joey Harrington and Georgia Tech's George Godsey.

**Can Oklahoma repeat as national champion?**

The previous two national champions—Florida State and Tennessee—were loaded the following years and couldn't get it done. The Sooners have plenty of talent but have a huge question at quarterback (see aforementioned key) with untested junior Nate Hybl. It could be worse. John Blake could still be around.

**What's up with the East Coast bias? Why do West Coast teams never get respect until the bowl games?**

Not everyone can own a dish, so get used to it. Besides, you can blame ABC, too. The Pac-10's national network partner didn't start consistently showing Washington, Oregon and Oregon State in marquee national games last season until it was too late.

**Is this the year depleted Florida State finally looks human in the ACC?**

Depleted? The Seminoles recruit better than anyone in the country and have All-Americans stacked and packed like jets at LaGuardia. There is, however, a sense of uncertainty with a lack of experience at key positions. The 'Noles will lose to Georgia Tech in the third week of the season, then won't lose again until the season finale at Gainesville.

**Has the game passed by Penn State coach Joe Paterno?**

Two years ago, Penn State was ranked No. 1 in the country late in the season and Paterno was signing a contract extension. A year later, Penn State struggled and JoePa couldn't find his playbook with those Coke-bottle glasses. Know this: He is as sharp as ever and will pass Bear Bryant this season as the all-time winningest Division I coach. He'll also have the Lions ready for the season opener against Miami in what could be the first major upset of the season.

**Can Notre Dame rebound from its embarrassing Fiesta Bowl loss to Oregon State?**

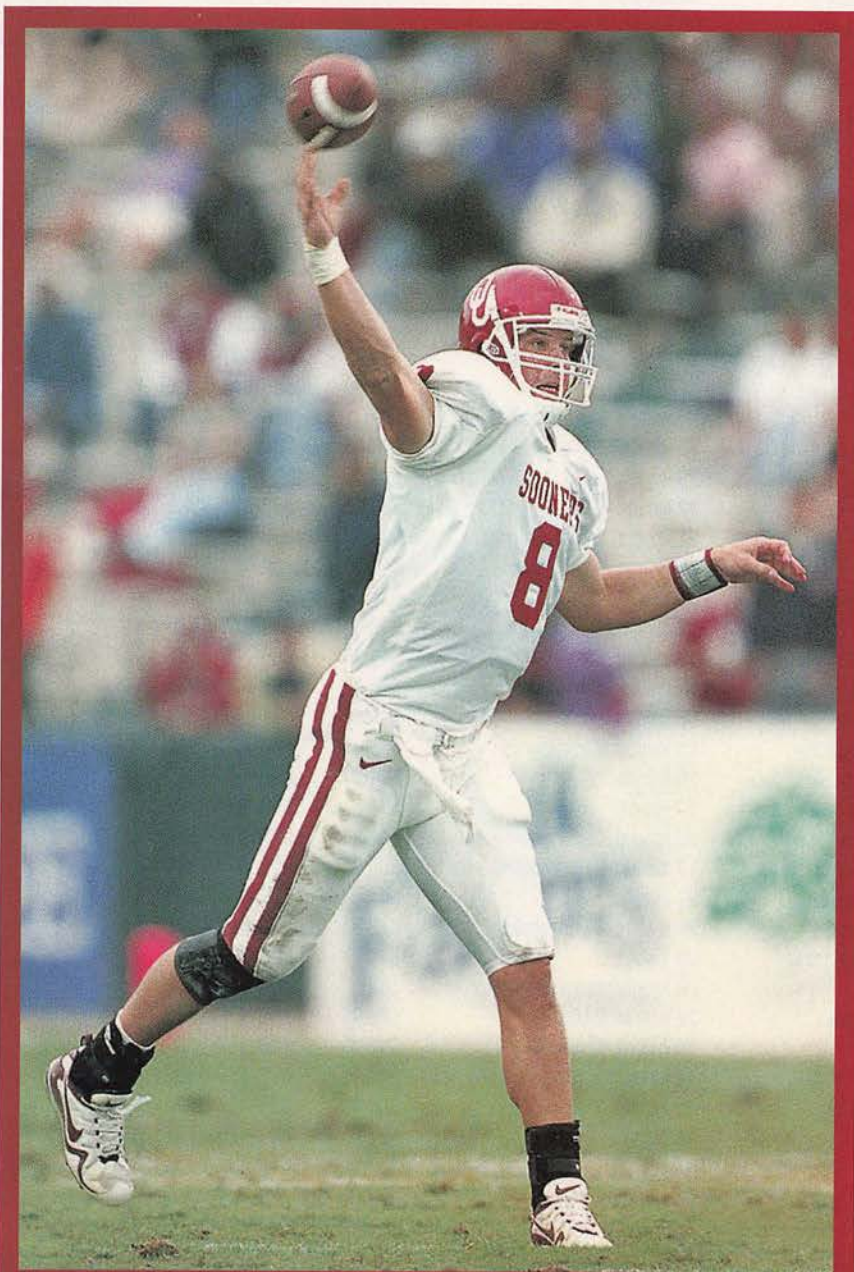
The 19 starters returning to South Bend are a good start, but the Irish lack game-breaking speed at the skill positions, and the offense is stale and unimaginative. The schedule is brutal, and coach Bob Davie's game-day decisions are questionable. But quarterback Matt LoVecchio is a winner, and the tailback trio of Julius Jones, Tony Fisher and Terrance Howard will cause fits for defenses.

**Can you explain the influence of computer polls on the BCS?**

Next question.

**No, really.**

Ask Roy Kramer or John Swofford, the former and current BCS commissioner, respectively. I'm sure you'll get an insightful, intelligent answer that will have something to do with quartiles and standard deviations



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

**THIN RESUME:** Hybl (above) threw only 16 passes for Oklahoma last season while backing up Heupel.





Penn State's  
Joe Paterno

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

and nothing to do with who beat whom when they played.

**Now that Michael Vick is gone, who is the most exciting player in college football?**

Look in Gainesville, but don't look on offense. At least not yet. Lito Sheppard, Florida's risk-taking, game-breaking cornerback, can do it all. He tied for the SEC lead with six interceptions last season and averaged 14 yards on punt returns. Expect Florida coach Steve Spurrier to find ways to get Sheppard the ball as a wideout, further tapping his dynamic abilities.

**Who will win the Heisman Trophy?**

Texas QB Chris Simms has the preseason hype (see page 41), and the Longhorns have a schedule as soft as Major Applewhite's knees. Godsey could make a run, but if Joe Hamilton couldn't win it in 1999 with bloated numbers, how can Godsey expect to? Nebraska quarterback Eric Crouch will be around again, while Northwestern tailback Damien Anderson will set records in Evanston and Oregon State running back Ken Simonton will set records in the Pac-10. The sleeper: USC quarterback Carson Palmer. All that untapped potential will blossom under new quarterbacks coach Norm Chow.

**Are there any teams capable of making an unexpected run at the national title?**

Let's say this with a *huge* asterisk. If LSU stays healthy, it could make a run in the SEC and potentially go much further. The

problem is gutsy quarterback Rohan Davey and terrific tailback LaBrandon Toefield haven't been able to stay on the field. The Tigers will beat Florida in Baton Rouge in October. But will they be able to beat the Gators again in the SEC championship game with a spot in the Rose Bowl on the line?

**OK, one more time, who will win the national title?**

Let's first figure who *won't* be there. Miami has more talent than anyone else in the nation, but it will find out how hard Florida State plays in rivalry games at Tallahassee no matter how many problems it has (see Florida-FSU, circa 1998). At some point, Hybl's inexperience will cost Oklahoma, and Florida's lack of a defensive interior will end its title dream. Virginia Tech has no Vick, and Nebraska's defense won't do the trick. That leaves Oregon—which gets a break in scheduling and doesn't have to play Washington—and perennial underachiever Texas. The Ducks will roll through the regular season behind tailback Maurice Morris and Harrington, then edge Oregon State in the Civil War for a spot in the Rose Bowl. The Longhorns, meanwhile, will learn how to win a big game by beating Oklahoma in the Red River Rivalry, then carry that momentum to Pasadena. Hey, Phil Simms won the big one with the New York Giants. It's time Chris—and Texas—won a big game, too.

## The redshirts are coming

They plugged along in obscurity on the scout team in 2000, spending their first season in college football away from the field. Here are the five redshirt freshmen who will have the biggest impact on this season.

**QB Chris Rix, Florida State.** Don't let the lack of experience on the depth chart fool you. Quarterback is the only position of concern for the Seminoles—at least, as far as winning the ACC. A couple of rare misses in recruiting (Jared Jones, Fabian Walker) contributed to Florida State's beginning a season with no experience at quarterback. Rix, though, has plenty of talent and will give the Seminoles the threat of a mobile quarterback again. A veteran group of receivers will help the transition, too. The question is: Can Rix develop enough by the third week of the season, when loaded Georgia Tech comes to Tallahassee?

**RB Willis McGahee, Miami.** When will the run of talented backs end? Edgerrin James, James Jackson, Clinton Portis and now McGahee, who just might be the best of the bunch. He's 225 pounds, runs a sub-4.4 40 and he's fearless. He dominated Miami's spring scrimmages and has forced his way into a crowded backfield. His presence has all but assured former TB Najeh Davenport of

moving to fullback full time and likely means decreased carries for Portis and Jarret Payton. Jackson, Davenport and Portis rotated at the position the past two seasons. McGahee could end the shuffle.

**RB Tyrone Griffin, Wisconsin.** The Badgers have four redshirt freshman running backs competing for playing time, but none has the combination of size and speed of Griffin (6-0, 231). He made huge strides in spring practice after front-runner Broderick Williams tore knee ligaments. Now, Griffin is the favorite to win the job. A powerful runner, he rushed for more than 5,000 yards in high school and has the physical frame to handle the pounding Wisconsin backs take.

**OT Wes Sims, Oklahoma.** OU insiders believe Sims, 6-5, 310, potentially could be the best lineman ever to play in Norman. That's right, ever. Better than Greg Roberts, better than Mike Vaughn. Even better than Ralph Neely. That's saying plenty, but Sims was turning heads last year on the scout team with his quickness and upper-body strength. He has good feet and mobility, and if he develops as many think he will, the Sooners will have a dominating tackle tandem—including All-American candidate Frank Romero—for new quarterback Nate Hybl.

**RB Marcus Houston, Colorado.** Yeah, we know he played last year. But a torn hip flexor muscle limited him to three games and saved a season of eligibility. He had 340 yards in about 10 quarters of work and



Colorado RB  
Marcus Houston

CLIFF GRASSMICK FOR TSN

showed why he was the best running back recruit in the nation in 2000. Want to know why Colorado could be the surprise team of 2001? Houston's speed, strength and vision are a huge part of it. A prediction: By the end of the season, the Buffs will have the best quarterback-tailback combination (Craig Ochs and Houston) in the Big 12 and one of the best in the nation.

**TSN**

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Texas QB  
Chris Simms

# TSN's Top 25

CAPSULES BY TOM DIENHART



# 1. TEXAS

Running backs must emerge. Hodges Mitchell, whose 4,945 all-purpose yards ranks fourth in the Texas record book, is gone. That means Victor Ike, Kenny Hayter or Ivan Williams has to step up. Even true freshman Cedric Benson could be the man. Regardless, a running game is needed to create room for QB Chris Simms and the passing attack.

Departed DTs Shaun Rogers and Casey Hampton were the anchors in the middle of the defense. Texas needs Stevie Lee, Adam Doiron and Marcus Tubbs to emerge. Each looks the part, but each also must play it.

The loss of K Kris Stockton may be the biggest void on the team. His 75.3 percent career accuracy rate is No. 1 in school annals, and his 58 field goals ranks second. Coaches will hand the job to redshirt freshman Matt McFadden.

**Bottom line:** Some feel the biggest obstacle Texas must clear to win its first national title since 1970 is coach Mack Brown. He is viewed more as a recruiter and administrator than a game-day tactician. Others like to point out he never has won a league title. Still, a great staff surrounds Brown, and no school has more talent. Plus, the schedule is kind: There's no Kansas State or Nebraska.

# 2. FLORIDA

Like a doughnut, the middle of the defensive line has a big hole in it. Gerard Warren, Buck Gurley and Derrick Chambers are gone. There are lots of bodies but few sure things. The Gators were so desperate they signed JC transfer Bryan Savelio. Ian Scott, Kenny Parker, Tron LaFavor, Arpedge Rolle and Chris Reynolds also are in the mix.

Hold that line. There is talent, but the offensive line needs to jell. OT Mike Pearson is a good starting point, and Zac Zedalis, after battling knee injuries, looks ready to go. David Jorgensen is another veteran option on the inside. With OT Kenyatta Walker off to the pros early, some young guys (Jonathan Colon? Mo Mitchell? Shannon Snell? Max Starks?) will have to step up.

Don't be surprised if another soap opera develops at quarterback. This year's edition would feature sophomores Rex Grossman and Brock Berlin. The issue could become divisive.

**Bottom line:** With guys like RB Earnest Graham and WR Jabar Gaffney, the offensive skill talent is hard to match. And the defense, led by a great secondary and a tweaked coaching staff, has answers everywhere but tackle. Then there's Steve Spurrier, often the difference in close games, and a schedule that has Tennessee and Florida State coming to Gainesville.

# 3. MIAMI (FLA.)

The Hurricanes must replace Santana Moss, Reggie Wayne and Andre King, so the receiving corps will be under scrutiny. Andre Johnson, cut from the Michael Irvin mold, is supposed to be the next great one. Daryl Jones and Jason Geathers also need to make

moves. The presence of veteran QB Ken Dorsey will help.

Dan Morgan was the heart and soul of the defense. Into the void steps Jonathan Vilma, who made strides as a true freshman last year. If a strong secondary headed by SS Edward Reed and CB Phillip Buchanon can lock up wideouts, the front seven will be able to gamble a little.

New coach Larry Coker never has been the man, so no one knows how he'll react when they turn the lights on. One thing is for sure: The players all like him, which means Coker, the team's offensive coordinator the previous five seasons, can expect maximum effort. Hustle and hard work always are good first steps.

**Bottom line:** Butch Davis orphaned this team as it was on the precipice of a triumphant return to its strutting days of the 1980s. Don't think that won't serve as motivation for a squad that probably should have played for the title last year.

# 4. OKLAHOMA

QB Josh Heupel and his rubber arm have left town. But more than any physical skill he brought, Heupel's intangibles were what made him special. It's now time to see how this offense looks with a strong arm at the trigger. Nate Hybl can't blink.

The offensive line must be tweaked with two starters lost, but you'll never see the coaches sweat over that. This is a well-coached group that continues to get better athletically, which will allow the offense to do more things.

Oklahoma no longer is a hunter; it's the hunted. How will the Sooners perform in that role? They'll get everyone's best shot. That means guys like LB Rocky Calmus, SS Roy Williams, RB Quentin Griffin and TE Trent Smith must stay hungry.

**Bottom line:** If ever a team had a perfect season—literally and figuratively—it was OU in 2000. The lack of injuries may have been the most fortunate aspect of the national championship run. It's hard to see everything again falling perfectly for the Sooners. But the scary thing is, this squad may be more talented than last year's.

# 5. OREGON

The defensive line needs to hold up. The Ducks never have been accused of being maulers and scrapers up front, but they must find pass rushers so the talented secondary doesn't get worn down in coverage.

Given the developing nature of the line and linebackers, the secondary needs to live up to its billing as one of the Pac-10's best. If players such as CB Rashad

Bauman can tie up receivers in man coverage, there could be lots of blitzing and stunting up front to create pressure.

The offense will have to put on a fireworks show on most Saturdays. That may be possible with QB Joey Harrington. Keenan Howry heads a solid receiving corps, but the Maurice Morris-Onterio Smith running back duo is even more exciting.

**Bottom line:** If things go right, the Ducks could run the table and be a dark horse to win the national title. But don't overlook the kicking game, where a new punter and kicker must be developed. Gaffes in that area could be devastating in close games. Mike Bellotti is a brilliant coach who watched his staff get raided in the offseason, but he has the savvy to overcome.

# 6. VIRGINIA TECH

Where have you gone, Michael Vick? Junior Grant Noel figures to be the quarterback over redshirt freshman Jason Davis based on Noel's edge in experience. It's important Noel makes good decisions to take advantage of ample skill talent in the form of WR Andre' Davis and RB Lee Suggs.

The coaching staff is breaking in four new starters on the offensive line, but several of the new guys played lots of minutes last season. Translation: Don't sweat it.



Florida RB  
Earnest Graham

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN





Florida State WR Atrwells Bell

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

The Hokies have to dominate on defense. Although this year's edition doesn't look as if it will feature a pass rusher in the Corey Moore mold, it has the components to play as well as Tech's 1999 defense did. DTs Chad Beasley and David Pugh and LBs Ben Taylor and Jake Houseright are special.

**Bottom line:** If Vick had returned for his junior season, this could have been a preseason No. 1 team. As it stands, it still should be a strong squad that won't be burdened with huge expectations since everyone feels Miami is the class of the Big East.

## 7. FLORIDA STATE

The quarterback, be it Chris Rix or Anquan Boldin, has to make prudent decisions for an offense that faces more questions than at any other time in the Bobby Bowden era. There are enough blue-chippers who have been buried on the depth chart (WRs Atrwells Bell and Javon Walker, RBs Greg Jones and RB Davy Ford) to make the skill positions good.

The Seminoles are looking for the next great defensive end now that Roland Seymour, Jamal Reynolds and David Warren are gone. That guy may be Alonzo Jackson. He or someone else (Kevin Emanuel?) has to provide a big pass rush so the defense doesn't have to blitz to get pressure and two new cornerbacks don't have to cover all day.

The linebacking situation could get dicey if injuries occur. Bradley Jennings is a stud, but his sidekicks lack experience. At least potentially stellar linemen Jeff Womble and Darnell Dockett should create interference to allow the new linebackers room to roam.

**Bottom line:** This is Florida State, where talent abounds. If any other school faced as many holes, it would be cause for concern. Not being considered a serious national championship contender may fuel the Seminoles' fire.

## 8. TENNESSEE

Strong-looking lines must dominate on both sides of the ball. That means players such as G Fred Weary and DT John Henderson have to fulfill their immense billing. If Tennessee can win the battles up front, it will have a ripple effect.

Depth must be developed at tailback, and the team must find a big-play receiver. Travis Stephens looks to step in for Travis Henry at tailback. Stephens is a proven commodity, but the spots behind him may be filled by true freshmen. Jabari Davis, perhaps? At wideout, coaches will look to Donte Stallworth, Eric Parker and Leonard Scott to be difference-makers.

The secondary hasn't held its own the past few seasons and was shuffled again during the spring. If coverage and tackling are problems, foes could register big plays.

**Bottom line:** This was a young team last season. Players such as QB Casey Clausen gained valuable experience. That will have to show as the Vols have one of the toughest schedules in the nation.

## 9. NEBRASKA

True, the Cornhuskers don't throw often, but they need a deep threat to keep defenses honest, especially with Bobby Newcombe gone. Wilson Thomas and Ben Zajicek could be the men. QB Eric Crouch at least can count on TE Tracey Wistrom.

The right side of the offensive line is being rebuilt. On the left, returning starters G Tionu Fonoti and T Dave Volk form a solid foundation. Remember, this is Nebraska, where the manufacturing of linemen is one of the state's top industries.

Although the safety slots must be addressed, Nebraska is more focused on getting settled at linebacker with Carlos Polk gone. A strong-looking line could keep the rest of the defensive starters' blackshirts clean.

**Bottom line:** Talk in the Big 12 will focus on Texas and Oklahoma, allowing Nebraska, which has a favorable schedule, to lurk behind the corner. The leadership and skills of Crouch will go a long way toward making this offense move, as will improved speed at I-back in Dahrran Diedrick and Thunder Collins.

## 10. LSU

With two starters gone, the development of the offensive line is key. LSU has several talented behemoths, but will they perform? If the blocking is there, a cache of skill talent that includes WRs Josh Reed and Jerel Myers, TE Robert Royal and RB LaBrandon Toefield could shine.

QB Rohan Davey has to stay healthy and watch his weight. When he's physically sound, Davey is a formidable combination of strength and tenacity.

The front seven on defense has to dominate. Headed by LB Trev Faulk, DE Jarvis Green and LB Bradie James, this group could be one of the SEC's best. Combine that talent with coach Nick Saban's defensive prowess and you have the makings of a fearsome outfit.

**Bottom line:** The Bayou Bengals seem to be in the midst of a renaissance under Saban, who demands attention to detail and discipline. The fact the SEC West looks like an open race should further motivate what appears to be one of the most talented teams in the league.

## 11. OREGON STATE

The Beavers need two new defensive ends to step up and provide a pass rush. Departed Es DeLawrence Grant and LaDairis Jackson allowed Oregon State to get heat on passers without compromising the defense with a blitz.

This is an offense that likes to throw the ball, so the loss of several key receivers hurts. JC transfers Jermaine Jackson, Travon Magee and Andre Cyrus must step up to help top holdover James Newson. Having veteran QB Jonathan Smith throwing to them will help. And RB Ken Simonton will keep defenses off-balance.

Oregon State has to replace three starting offensive linemen, but appearances can be deceiving. G Keith DiDomenico is back after sitting out last year because of personal problems. Like DiDomenico, C Chris Gibson is All-Star caliber. And T Lee Davis looks like a future standout. Still, chemistry must develop.

**Bottom line:** Coach Dennis Erickson has assembled a strong staff that knows how to extract the maximum amount of talent. But the biggest secret is the speed that Oregon State has managed to compile on defense in the form of players like LB James Allen and CB Dennis Weathersby.

## 12. GEORGIA TECH

The secondary's coverage skills still are in question. Notre Dame transfer Albert Poree should help at corner, and SS Chris Young and FS Jeremy Muyres are at least proven hitters. A strong front seven led by DEs Greg Gathers and Nick Rogers and LB Daryl Smith could bring the heat, which would ease the burden on the cover men.

The offensive line has to be fine-tuned. George Godsey isn't the most athletic quarterback, so he must be given time to find WRs Kelly Campbell and Kerry Watkins. And the line has to open lanes for a group of good runners that includes Joe Burns.

The offense can't skip a beat despite losing coordinator Ralph Friedgen. That means new coordinator Bill O'Brien is on the spot. At 31, he's one of the youngest play-callers in the nation.

**Bottom line:** Excitement hasn't been this intense in Atlanta since Tech won a share of the 1990 national championship. This group has a chance to make a run, as talent and speed are everywhere. If the Yellow Jackets can win September 15 at Florida State, look out.

## 13. NORTHWESTERN

Let's just say last year's defense left something to be desired. Players often didn't stay disciplined with their assignments, leading to breakdowns when plays broke across the



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field. In this year's group, the linebackers, led by Napoleon Harris, are good, but the line and secondary need work.

The no-huddle offense must recapture the explosiveness it possessed last year. That shouldn't be a problem with QB Zak Kustok and RB Damien Anderson returning and with every starting offensive lineman back. On special teams, NU will be looking for a kicker with dependable Tim Long gone.

**Bottom line:** Coach Randy Walker has the Wildcats believing in themselves after forging a three-way share of the Big Ten title last year. The season will come down to how much the defense, which lost five starters, has improved. It also will be interesting to see how the team plays under big expectations.

## 14. USC

It has been the refrain of recent seasons: It's essential that the offensive line develop. The Trojans haven't had a dominating unit in years. In this year's largely veteran group, it's important for G Zach Wilson to set the tone.

The secondary has been maligned the past few years, but it looks to be loaded with talent. It's especially important that DBs Kris Richard, Troy Polamalu and Darrell Rideaux play well given the fact the front seven is being refined.

It's time for QB Carson Palmer to show why he was fussed over as a high school star. He'll work with one of the nation's top receiving corps, which includes WR Kareem Kelly and some talented tight ends.

**Bottom line:** Pete Carroll is the new man in town. It's a good thing he knows defense, because that unit will need developing. At

least there's talent. But there's always talent at USC. The Trojans just haven't always played hard or smart. Accomplishing those things should be Carroll's No. 1 priority.

## 15. KANSAS STATE

Jonathan Beasley may not have been the most glamorous quarterback, but all he did was win. Will the new starter (sophomore Ell Roberson or JC transfer Marc Dunn) be so inclined? At least WR Aaron Lockett, a primo return man, will offer the new passer relief. Also, RB Josh Scobey looks ready to prove he's not the next Frank Murphy. But the offense's productivity could be hindered in that true freshman K Joe Rheem, brother of Jamie, isn't ready.

The secondary is being overhauled. JC transfers like James Dunnigan and Bobby Walker need to be just-add-water ready. CBs DeRon Tyler and Terence Newman have promise, and S Jon McGraw is a steady force. The defensive line needs work. No starters return, so linebackers such as Ben Leber and Terry Pierce may be cleaning up a lot of messes.

**Bottom line:** Bill Snyder always has the Wildcats ready. Expect K-State to keep it basic on offense until a quarterback develops. Roberson or Dunn could prove to be a bigger playmaker than Beasley, but the triggerman also will have to make the smart play.

## 16. NOTRE DAME

The Irish need good play from their secondary, which made strides last season. The team received a blow when CB Brock

Williams elected not to return for his last year of eligibility. The loss of S Tony Driver also hurts. The group should be helped by a strong front seven, which is headlined by DEs Grant Irons and Anthony Weaver.

QB Matt LoVecchio has to take the next step. He did a great job playing within himself last season when he was forced into duty as a true freshman. Now, he needs to make a few plays himself. He'll work with a good receiving corps.

The offensive line needs to be fine-tuned with both starting guards gone. It would be a shame if a core of talented skill players including RBs Julius Jones and Tony Fisher didn't have room to roam. T Jordan Black and C Jeff Faine are good building blocks.

**Bottom line:** It's time to forget about the Fiesta Bowl meltdown against Oregon State. This looks like the best team of the Bob Davie era. But a major stumbling block could be a schedule that includes September trips to Nebraska,

Purdue and Texas A&M. Visits from Pittsburgh, USC and Tennessee also loom.

## 17. MICHIGAN

The offense has been ravaged. Perhaps the biggest losses occurred up front with four linemen gone, including T Jeff Backus and G Steve Hutchinson, who were both first-round NFL draft picks. The talent stepping up is formidable, but it takes time to develop chemistry.

QB Drew Henson's spring departure was a surprise. So, instead of having perhaps the nation's top signal caller, the Wolverines will turn to pedestrian John Navarre. RB Anthony Thomas and WR David Terrell also are gone.

The 2000 Michigan defense was the second worst in school history. In a good news/bad news scenario, much of that unit is back. But it's safe to say players such as LB Larry Foote and CB Todd Howard learned from their experiences.

**Bottom line:** This is Michigan. Things will be fine. The program has succeeded with mechanical quarterbacks in the past. See Tom Brady. And Lloyd Carr does some of his best work when little is expected. Remember 1997, the year the Wolverines won a share of the national title? That's not likely to happen again, but don't count them out.

## 18. CLEMSON

In an effort to improve the defense, which has struggled in recent years—especially against the pass—Clemson has altered its scheme from a 4-3 to a 4-2. It's vital the team gets a good pass rush to take heat off the secondary.

The Tigers need to score, score, score. And the offense looks up to the challenge. QB Woodrow Dantzler is a dual threat, and RBs Travis Zachery and Bernard Rambert are formidable.

Clemson welcomes the nation's best collection of incoming receivers, headed by Roscoe Crosby. The group has to be ready so the offense can stretch the field.

**Bottom line:** If Clemson was a stock, it would have a buy recommendation. In fact, the Tigers could have blue-chip appeal if the defense develops. Although the Tigers may not scale the ACC mountain this year, they could soon enough.

## 19. SOUTH CAROLINA

Any good defense is strong up the middle. Unfortunately for the Gamecocks, that may be a problem area, with unproven commodities stepping into the void created by the departures of DTs Cleveland Pinkney and Cecil Caldwell.

On offense, RB Derek Watson is the real deal, but his status is tenuous after a spring suspension. USC also needs a wideout, possibly Brian Scott or Corey Alexander to develop. With a home run hitter, this could be Lou Holtz's most dynamic offense yet at South Carolina.

The Gamecocks could use more play-making ability from their quarterbacks. Phil Petty



Notre Dame RB  
Julius Jones

ROSS DETTMAN FOR TSN



is solid and steady, but Dondrial Pinkins is a more dynamic athlete who could make things happen.

**Bottom line:** Few can coach as well Holtz, the master motivator. He has the program riding high after its stunning blowout of Ohio State in the Outback Bowl. Dealing with increased expectations may be the team's biggest hurdle.

## 20. MISSISSIPPI STATE

The Bulldogs suffered several big losses up front on defense, but DT Dorsett Davis is a good building block and coaches are banking on help from JC transfers.

With three more starters gone in the secondary, including CB Fred Smoot, the unit has as many issues as the line. Ss Pig Prather and Josh Morgan will provide leadership for a group that needs star LB Mario Haggan to continue harassing quarterbacks.

The offensive backfield is loaded with QB Wayne Madkin and RBs Dontae Walker and Dencenzo Miller. But a few receivers need to step up to complement Terrell Grindle. With a balanced attack, Mississippi State's offense will be more difficult to defend. But a new kicker could undo the attack's good deeds.

**Bottom line:** Never underestimate Jackie Sherrill, who has mastered the ability to restock his roster with JC transfers. People often think defense when mentioning the Bulldogs, but it's the offense that must carry a big load early while the other side develops.



Washington DT  
Larry Tripplett

## 21. WASHINGTON

QB Marques Tuiasosopo and his magic have left. That means someone from the trio of Cody Pickett, Taylor Barton and Ryan Porter has to emerge. It could be two someones, as coach Rick Neuheisel plans to use a pair of passers, at least early on.

The offensive line has to be rebuilt with four starters gone. And that's cause for alarm for a team that likes to play smash-mouth football. The new guys are as big and nasty

as departees Elliot Silvers and Chad Ward, but they need to bond.

The front seven on defense has some big holes to fill. T Larry Tripplett and E Marcus Roberson are strong up front. The biggest key will be developing a pass rush. The secondary looks good, but it can't cover all day.

**Bottom line:** There is a lot of momentum in Seattle as the talent level continues to rise, but it could take a few games for things to sort out. Still, expect the defense to step up early while the offense finds its legs.

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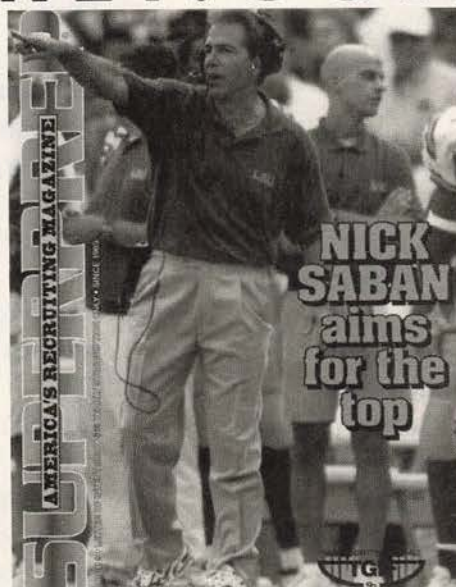
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## 22. ALABAMA

A quarterback must emerge from the ranks of Andrew Zow, Tyler Watts and Brodie Croyle. The position has been a rotating door in recent years. With a consistent hand under center, WRs Freddie Milons and Antonio Carter could thrive.

The offensive line has to blend three new starters. It will be important to open lanes so the Tide can re-establish a ground game for talented RBs Ahmaad Galloway, Santonio Beard and Brandon Miree.

The secondary was hit hard by the loss of four starters, and a big burden must be carried up front by players like E Kindal Moorehead, Ts Jarret Johnson and Kenny King and LB Saleem Rasheed.

**Bottom line:** New coach Dennis Franchione has inherited a talented roster. His ability to make his troops play hard and with discipline, traits the team lacked last year, should go a long way toward turning around the program.

## 23. EAST CAROLINA

The Pirates need work on both sides of the line. Each unit is looking to replace two starters. The coaches like the prospects who are stepping in, but they will take time to develop. There is enough surrounding talent to allow time for growth.

David Garrard is one of the nation's top quarterbacks, but he needs targets. Terrance

Copper is a guy who could become a big-play threat. The new wideouts should have room to work thanks to the presence of good RBs Leonard Henry and Art Brown.

On defense, the back seven has to dominate while the line jells. The linebacking corps is a fine group thanks to Pernell Griffin and Greg LeFever. And the secondary welcomes back all four starters.

**Bottom line:** Coach Steve Logan is one of the nation's best-kept secrets. Combine his coaching acumen with a load of talent and a favorable schedule, and you can see why the Pirates may make national waves this season.

## 24. PITTSBURGH

RB Kevan Barlow carried a big load last season that someone must pick up. The Panthers have several candidates, which means the team could look for a group effort in the rushing game. The ground attack should have room to work because of the ability of WR Antonio Bryant to stretch the field.

The defense welcomes back 10 starters and will have to dominate. E Bryan Knight, LB Gerald Hayes and FS Ramon Walker must fulfill their billing as big-time players.

Coach Walt Harris has shown he isn't averse to playing two passers, but a quarterback controversy between senior David Priestly and sophomore Rod Rutherford would hurt the team. In the end, Rutherford may be the best option because his ability to

make plays could mask his inexperience.

**Bottom line:** It's safe to say Harris' rebuilding project is about complete. The offensive whiz has lots of talent on both sides of the ball, but the biggest key will be the defense's ability to control the game and get the ball back.

## 25. PURDUE

QB Brandon Hance, who steps in for Drew Brees, has a good grasp of the offense and even will broaden the attack because of his superior running skills. A promising receiving corps headed by John Standeford and Seth Morales buoy's his cause.

The offensive line has to replace four starters. It's a good thing RBs Montrell Lowe and Sedrick Brown have experience finding holes. Still, the new linemen will be an athletic lot that eventually will allow the offense to continue to expand.

The defense returns 10 starters. It's important the group plays as well as it did last season while the offense gets settled. The line could be especially good with players like E Akin Ayodele and T Matt Mitrione.

**Bottom line:** With a veteran defense, coach Joe Tiller shouldn't have a drop-off. The team also is helped by a favorable schedule and the fact the Big Ten doesn't appear to have a dominant team. **TSN**

*Staff writer Tom Dienhart covers college football for THE SPORTING NEWS. E-mail him at tsntsd@aol.com*

### All the rest...

- 26. Colorado
- 27. Wisconsin
- 28. Louisville
- 29. Georgia
- 30. Ohio State
- 31. Colorado State
- 32. UCLA
- 33. Fresno State
- 34. Texas A&M
- 35. Michigan State
- 36. Auburn
- 37. Arizona State
- 38. NC State
- 39. Penn State
- 40. Marshall
- 41. Southern Miss
- 42. San Diego State
- 43. Virginia
- 44. Boston College
- 45. UAB
- 46. Syracuse
- 47. Toledo

- 48. TCU
- 49. Stanford
- 50. North Carolina
- 51. Texas Tech
- 52. Arkansas
- 53. UNLV
- 54. UTEP
- 55. Cincinnati
- 56. Missouri
- 57. West Virginia
- 58. Illinois
- 59. Minnesota
- 60. Temple
- 61. Middle Tennessee
- 62. Western Michigan
- 63. BYU
- 64. Iowa State
- 65. Ohio
- 66. Mississippi
- 67. Maryland
- 68. Boise State
- 69. Idaho
- 70. California

- 71. Tulane
- 72. Akron
- 73. New Mexico State
- 74. Northern Illinois
- 75. San Jose State
- 76. Iowa
- 77. Washington State
- 78. Houston
- 79. Miami (Ohio)
- 80. New Mexico
- 81. Oklahoma State
- 82. Kansas
- 83. Memphis
- 84. Air Force
- 85. Ball State
- 86. Vanderbilt
- 87. Central Michigan
- 88. Hawaii
- 89. Central Florida
- 90. Baylor
- 91. Utah State
- 92. Arizona
- 93. Indiana
- 94. Rutgers
- 95. Tulsa
- 96. Utah
- 97. Navy
- 98. Kentucky
- 99. Army
- 100. Wake Forest
- 101. Bowling Green
- 102. North Texas
- 103. Rice
- 104. Wyoming
- 105. Louisiana-Lafayette
- 106. Duke
- 107. SMU
- 108. Louisiana Tech
- 109. Kent State
- 110. Eastern Michigan
- 111. Nevada
- 112. Buffalo
- 113. Louisiana-Monroe
- 114. Arkansas State
- 115. South Florida
- 116. Connecticut



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- An individual school can only be picked in one category per week.
- You must have 16 different schools each week.
- You may change any or all of your 16 schools every week.

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- Reports will be available via the Internet each Sunday after 5:00 PM Central Time. The reports will include your team summary, league summary and the top 100 teams overall summary.
- First unofficial Internet reports will be available September 6th.
- Mailed and faxed reports, if purchased, will be sent every Monday beginning September 10, 2001.

### ENTRY DEADLINES

- Internet, telephone, and fax entries will be accepted until 9 PM CT on Friday, August 31, 2001.
- Mailed entries must be postmarked no later than August 31, 2001 and received no later than Tuesday, September 4, 2001. Entries with invalid postmarks and entries with valid postmarks but received after September 4th will be returned.
- Mail entries with payment to: CDM, Inc./College Football, 11756 Borman Drive Suite 220, St. Louis, MO 63146.

### ROSTER CHANGES

- You may change any or all of your 16 schools each week.
- To make changes, an account number, user id and password will be provided.
- Changes must be made by 11 AM CT on Saturday in order to be effective for the upcoming weekend's games.
- For Thursday and Friday games, the deadline for changes involving these schools is 30 minutes prior to the first game played that day. Once this deadline has passed, you will not be able to add or drop the schools in the early game(s) until the following week.
- There will be a \$2.00 surcharge per team each time changes are made via phone, fax, mail, e-mail, or voice mail rather than via the Internet.

### COST TO PLAY

- \$99.95 for each entry.
- \$20.00 to receive weekly reports via mail or fax.
- There is no charge to make roster changes via the Internet. There is, however, a \$2 surcharge per team each time changes are made via phone, fax, mail, e-mail or voice mail.

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- Overall (Top 100 earn more cash)
- Weekly (Top team for the week earns \$100)

**1 in 25 will earn at least \$400**

Place	Overall Prizes (all teams)	League Prizes (25 teams)
1st	\$10,000	\$400
2nd	\$5,000	\$200
3rd	\$1,000	\$100
4th	\$750	\$50 Gift Certificate
5th	\$500	
6th to 10th	\$250	<b>Best Team Overall</b>
11th to 50th	\$100	<b>Each Week Earns \$100</b>
51st to 100th	\$50	

### SCORING

- Teams in each league are sorted by each team's total points. The team with the highest point total will be first and the team with the lowest point total will be last.
- To determine overall standings, all teams in the College Football Challenge are sorted by each team's total points.
- Points are accumulated weekly for all 16 schools. The week begins with games played on Thursday and ends with games played on Sunday. The challenge begins with games played on September 1, 2001, and ends with games played on December 1, 2001.
- Points from games played on August 30-31, do not count.
- Actual School Points Allowed is based on the final score of the game versus the school selected.
- A school's points are added to your team's point totals only during the weeks that school is on your team roster and only for the category for which the school has been selected.
- Category points by a school on your roster but not selected for that category do not count.
- Points by a school before it was on your roster do not count.

### ADDITIONAL RULES

- The College Football Challenge welcomes entries from around the world. All fees, however, must be paid with U.S. funds.
- Changes cannot be made until your team has been entered into the computer database. Mailed and faxed teams will be entered within five working days of receipt.
- Not responsible for lost, late, stolen or misdirected entries or changes.
- Our toll line is 314-991-1511. Our fax number is 314-991-1564.

### 8 SCORING CATEGORIES

#### OFFENSIVE POINTS

Actual School Points Scored (per pt. scored by school) .....1 Point  
 Offensive Passing Yards (1 pt. for every 10 yds.) .....0.10 Point  
 Offensive Rushing Yards (1 pt. for every 10 yds.) .....0.10 Point  
 Total Offensive Yards (1 pt. for every 20 yds.) .....0.05 Point

#### DEFENSIVE POINTS

Actual School Points Allowed .....(30 - Pts. Allowed) x 2.0  
 Def. Passing Yds. Allowed .....(300 - Pass Yds Allowed) x 0.3  
 Def. Rushing Yds. Allowed .....(200 - Pass Yds Allowed) x 0.3  
 Total Def. Yds. Allowed .....(400 - Total Yds Allowed) x 0.3

Each team owner will pick 2 schools in each of the 8 categories. Thus, each team will consist of 8 offensive scoring category schools and 8 defensive scoring category schools.

**An individual school can only be picked once per week.**

### THE SCHOOLS

ID	NAME	ID	NAME	ID	NAME
1	AIR FORCE	28	KANSAS ST.	55	RUTGERS
2	ALABAMA	29	KENTUCKY	56	SAN DIEGO ST.
3	ARIZONA	30	LOUISVILLE	57	SOUTH CAROLINA
4	ARIZONA ST.	31	LSU	58	SOUTHERN CAL
5	ARKANSAS	32	MARYLAND	59	SOUTHERN MISS
6	ARMY	33	MEMPHIS	60	STANFORD
7	AUBURN	34	MIAMI-FLORIDA	61	SYRACUSE
8	BAYLOR	35	MICHIGAN	62	TEMPLE
9	BOSTON COLLEGE	36	MICHIGAN ST.	63	TENNESSEE
10	BRIGHTMAN YOUNG	37	MINNESOTA	64	TEXAS
11	CALIFORNIA	38	MISSISSIPPI	65	TEXAS A&M
12	CINCINNATI	39	MISSISSIPPI ST.	66	TEXAS TECH
13	CLEMSON	40	MISSOURI	67	TULANE
14	COLORADO	41	NEBRASKA	68	UAB
15	COLORADO ST.	42	NEW MEXICO	69	UCLA
16	DUKE	43	NO. CAROLINA	70	UNLV
17	EAST CAROLINA	44	NORTH CAROLINA ST.	71	UTAH
18	FLORIDA	45	NORTHWESTERN	72	VANDERBILT
19	FLORIDA ST.	46	NOTRE DAME	73	VIRGINIA
20	GEORGIA	47	OHIO ST.	74	VIRGINIA TECH
21	GEORGIA TECH	48	OKLAHOMA	75	WAKE FOREST
22	HOUSTON	49	OKLAHOMA ST.	76	WASHINGTON
23	ILLINOIS	50	OREGON	77	WASHINGTON ST.
24	INDIANA	51	OREGON ST.	78	WEST VIRGINIA
25	IOWA	52	PENN ST.	79	WISCONSIN
26	IOWA ST.	53	PITTSBURGH	80	WYOMING
27	KANSAS	54	PURDUE		

#### I. Team Owner Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ TSN \_\_\_\_\_  
 Team Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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 First College Football Challenge Entry \$99.95  
 Additional Entries Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$99.95 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Weekly Rpts □ Mail □ Fax Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL PAYMENT** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Have you played a CDM Challenge before? \_\_\_\_\_

#### II. Team Roster

An individual school can only be picked once per week. Feel free to enlarge or use a separate piece of paper.

**OFFENSIVE POINTS SCORED**

Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #2 \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFENSIVE PASSING YARDS**

Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #2 \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFENSIVE RUSHING YARDS**

Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #2 \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFENSIVE TOTAL YARDS**

Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #2 \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFENSIVE POINTS ALLOWED**

Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #2 \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFENSIVE PASSING YARDS ALLOWED**

Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #2 \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFENSIVE RUSHING YARDS ALLOWED**

Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #2 \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFENSIVE TOTAL YARDS ALLOWED**

Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Id \_\_\_\_\_ School #2 \_\_\_\_\_



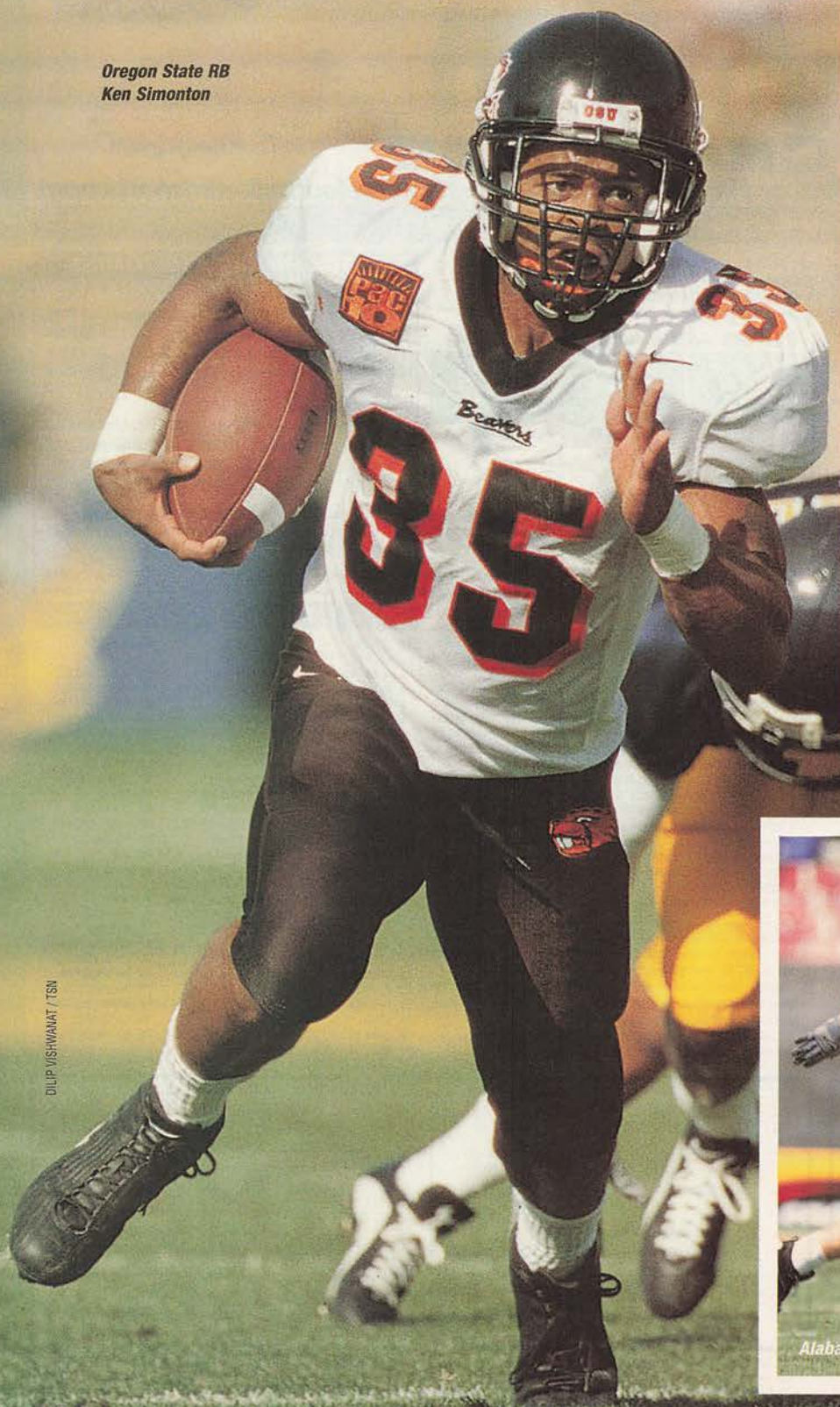
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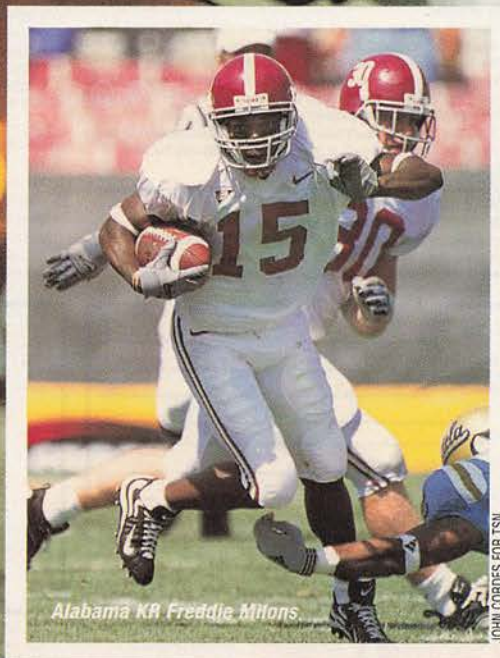


# All-American teams

Oregon State RB  
Ken Simonton



Florida State  
FS Chris Hope



Alabama KR Freddie Milons

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# FIRST TEAM

## OFFENSE

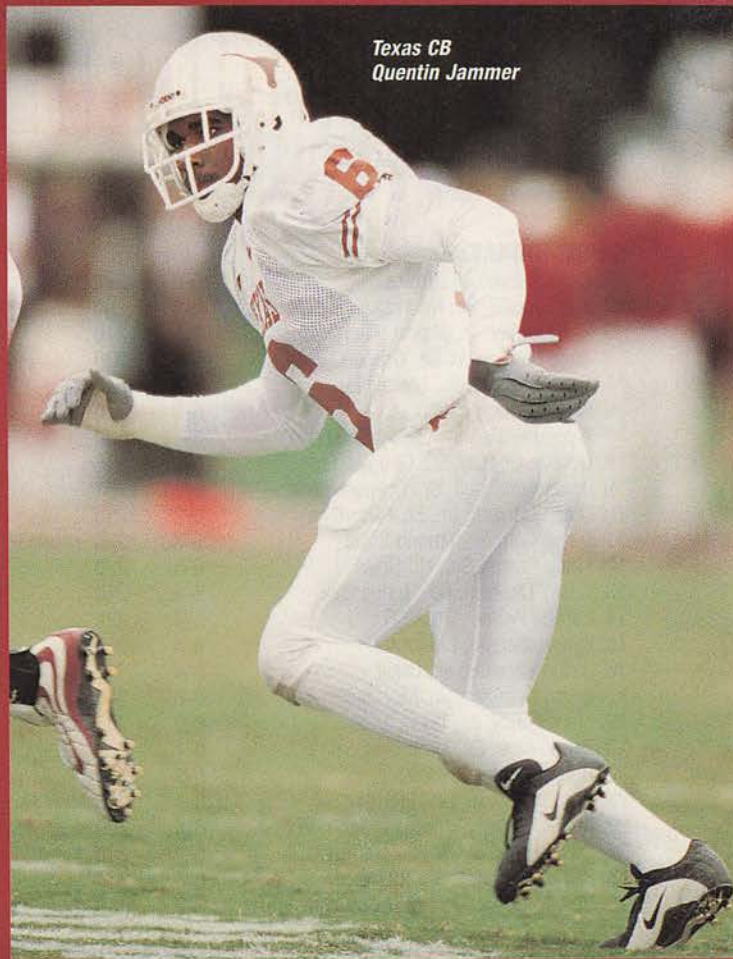
QB	Chris Simms, Jr., Texas	6-5	222
RB	Damien Anderson, Sr., Northwestern	5-11	204
RB	Ken Simonton, Sr., Oregon State	5-9	194
TE	Tracey Wistrom, Sr., Nebraska	6-5	230
WR	Jabar Gaffney, So., Florida	6-1	191
WR	Antonio Bryant, Jr., Pittsburgh	6-2	185
T	Mike Pearson, Jr., Florida	6-7	291
T	Bryant McKinnie, Sr., Miami (Fla.)	6-9	330
G	Martin Bibla, Sr., Miami (Fla.)	6-4	290
G	Fred Weary, Sr., Tennessee	6-4	301
C	Seth McKinney, Sr., Texas A&M	6-3	290

## DEFENSE

E	Julius Peppers, Jr., North Carolina	6-6	270
T	John Henderson, Sr., Tennessee	6-7	290
T	Larry Tripplett, Sr., Washington	6-1	300
E	Alex Brown, Sr., Florida	6-4	262
LB	Trev Faulk, Jr., LSU	6-3	225
LB	Mario Haggan, Jr., Mississippi State	6-3	253
LB	Rocky Calmus, Sr., Oklahoma	6-3	234
CB	Quentin Jammer, Sr., Texas	6-1	198
CB	Lito Sheppard, Sr., Florida	5-10	189
SS	Mike Doss, Jr., Ohio State	5-11	197
FS	Chris Hope, Sr., Florida State	6-0	205

## SPECIALISTS

K	Jeff Chandler, Sr., Florida	6-2	217
P	Damon Duval, Jr., Auburn	6-0	184
KR	Freddie Milons, Sr., Alabama	5-11	191



Texas CB  
Quentin Jammer

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

# SECOND TEAM

## OFFENSE

QB	Eric Crouch, Sr., Nebraska	6-1	200
RB	T.J. Duckett, Jr., Michigan State	6-2	252
RB	Lee Suggs, Jr., Virginia Tech	6-0	207
TE	Jeremy Shockey, Jr., Miami (Fla.)	6-6	250
WR	Roy Williams, So., Texas	6-5	210
WR	Kelly Campbell, Sr., Georgia Tech	5-11	170
T	Brett Williams, Jr., Florida State	6-6	315
T	Jon Stinchcomb, Jr., Georgia	6-6	278
G	Montrae Holland, Jr., Florida State	6-3	325
G	Andre Gurode, Sr., Colorado	6-4	320
C	LeCharles Bentley, Sr., Ohio State	6-2	290

## DEFENSE

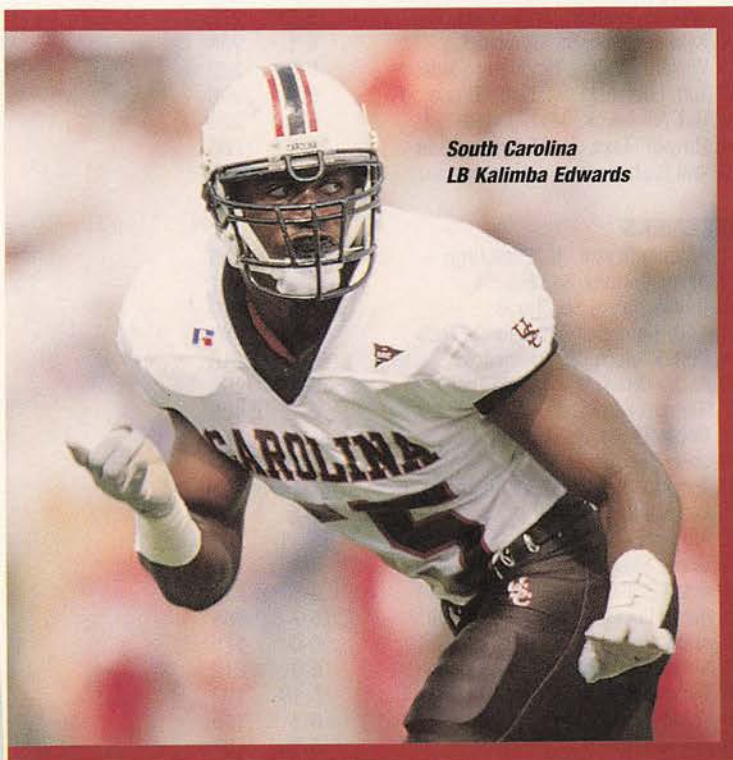
E	Kenyon Coleman, Sr., UCLA	6-6	276
T	Wendell Bryant, Sr., Wisconsin	6-4	293
T	Jeremy Slechta, Sr., Nebraska	6-6	285
E	Cory Redding, Jr., Texas	6-5	260
LB	Saleem Rasheed, Jr., Alabama	6-3	217
LB	Kalimba Edwards, Sr., South Carolina	6-6	262
LB	Jashon Sykes, Sr., Colorado	6-3	230
CB	Phillip Buchanon, Jr., Miami (Fla.)	5-11	180
CB	Dennis Weathersby, Jr., Oregon State	6-1	203
SS	Roy Williams, Jr., Oklahoma	6-0	221
FS	Ryan Clark, Sr., LSU	5-11	185

## SPECIALISTS

K	Alex Walls, Jr., Tennessee	6-1	175
P	Jeff Ferguson, Sr., Oklahoma	5-10	190
KR	Nick Davis, Sr., Wisconsin	5-10	183

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South Carolina  
LB Kalimba Edwards



# All-American rankings 2001

## ALL-OFFENSE

### QUARTERBACKS

1. Chris Simms, Jr., Texas	6-5	222
2. Eric Crouch, Sr., Nebraska	6-1	200
3. Ken Dorsey, Jr., Miami (Fla.)	6-5	210
4. Joey Harrington, Sr., Oregon	6-4	220
5. Dave Ragone, Sr., Louisville	6-4	240
6. Kurt Kittner, Sr., Illinois	6-3	210
7. Woodrow Dantzler, Sr., Clemson	5-11	200
8. George Godsey, Sr., Georgia Tech	6-2	205
9. Jonathan Smith, Sr., Oregon State	5-11	198
10. David Garrard, Sr., East Carolina	6-3	235
11. David Carr, Sr., Fresno State	6-3	220
12. Philip Rivers, So., NC State	6-5	228
13. Casey Clausen, So., Tennessee	6-4	210
14. Carson Palmer, Jr., USC	6-5	220
15. Kyle Boller, Jr., California	6-4	205
16. Jason Thomas, Jr., UNLV	6-4	230
17. Byron Leftwich, Jr., Marshall	6-6	240
18. Mark Farris, Jr., Texas A&M	6-2	206
19. Zak Kustok, Sr., Northwestern	6-1	200
20. Rohan Davey, Sr., LSU	6-3	239
21. Rex Grossman, So., Florida	6-1	216
22. Kliff Kingsbury, Jr., Texas Tech	6-4	200
23. David Priestley, Sr., Pittsburgh	6-4	205
24. Patrick Ramsey, Sr., Tulane	6-3	234
25. Ronald Curry, Sr., North Carolina	6-2	200

### RUNNING BACKS

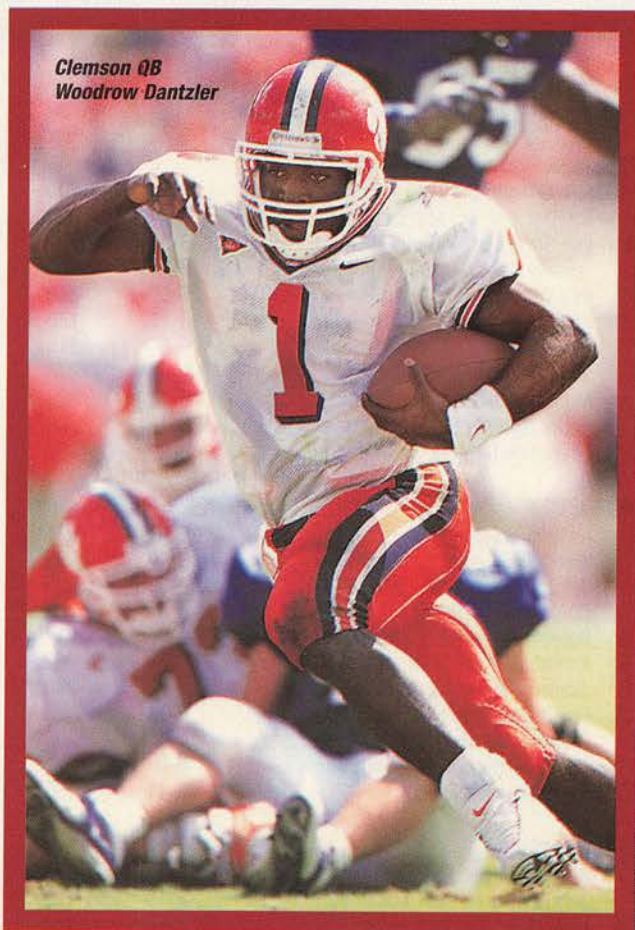
1. Damien Anderson, Sr., Northwestern	5-11	204
2. Ken Simonton, Sr., Oregon State	5-9	194
3. T.J. Duckett, Jr., Michigan State	6-1	252
4. Lee Suggs, Jr., Virginia Tech	6-0	207
5. Cedric Cobbs, So., Arkansas	6-1	228
6. DeShaun Foster, Sr., UCLA	6-1	215
7. Maurice Morris, Sr., Oregon	6-0	205
8. Deonce Whitaker, Sr., San Jose State	5-6	180
9. Antwoine Womack, Sr., Virginia	6-0	215
10. Ennis Haywood, Sr., Iowa State	5-11	218
11. Travis Zachery, Sr., Clemson	6-0	190
12. Earnest Graham, Jr., Florida	5-9	213
13. Sultan McCullough, Jr., USC	6-0	185
14. Rich Alexis, So., Washington	6-0	215
15. Julius Jones, Jr., Notre Dame	5-10	201
16. Dicenzo Miller, Sr., Mississippi State	5-10	207
17. Joe Burns, Jr., Georgia Tech	5-10	205
18. Derek Watson, Jr., South Carolina	6-1	212
19. Ladell Betts, Sr., Iowa	5-11	215
20. Cecil Sapp, Jr., Colorado State	6-1	216
21. William Green, Jr., Boston College	6-1	215
22. Quentin Griffin, Jr., Oklahoma	5-6	187
23. Derrick Nix, Sr., Southern Miss	6-2	226
24. Avon Cobourne, Jr., West Virginia	5-9	190
25. Joe Igber, Jr., California	5-8	200

### FULLBACKS

1. Jamar Martin, Sr., Ohio State	6-0	245
2. Casey Moore, Sr., Stanford	6-2	240
3. Najeh Davenport, Sr., Miami (Fla.)	6-2	235
4. Judd Davies, So., Nebraska	6-0	240
5. Chad Kuhns, Sr., Wisconsin	6-1	230
6. Jarrod Baxter, Sr., New Mexico	6-1	250
7. Jarrett Ferguson, Sr., Virginia Tech	5-9	217
8. Charles Stackhouse, Sr., Mississippi	6-2	240
9. Jeremi Johnson, Jr., Indiana	5-11	277
10. Kyle Johnson, Sr., Syracuse	6-1	238
11. William McCray, Sr., Florida State	6-0	225
12. Tom Lopienski, Sr., Notre Dame	6-1	236
13. B.J. Askew, Jr., Michigan	6-3	224
14. Dawan Moss, Jr., Michigan State	5-10	260
15. Will Bartholomew, Sr., Tennessee	6-0	232

### RECEIVERS

1. Antonio Bryant, Jr., Pittsburgh	6-2	185
2. Jabar Gaffney, So., Florida	6-1	191
3. Roy Williams, So., Texas	6-5	210
4. Kelly Campbell, Sr., Georgia Tech	5-11	170
5. Ron Johnson, Sr., Minnesota	6-3	216
6. Andre Davis, Sr., Virginia Tech	6-1	196
7. Kareem Kelly, Jr., USC	6-1	185
8. Bobby Wade, Jr., Arizona	5-11	187
9. Josh Reed, Jr., LSU	5-11	200
10. Terrence Edwards, Jr., Georgia	6-1	165
11. Lee Mays, Sr., UTEP	6-3	190
12. Atrewe Bell, Sr., Florida State	5-11	201
13. Donte Stallworth, Jr., Tennessee	6-1	190
14. Brian Poli-Dixon, Sr., UCLA	6-5	216
15. Aaron Lockett, Sr., Kansas State	5-7	165
16. Andre Woolfolk, Jr., Oklahoma	6-0	175
17. Marquise Walker, Sr., Michigan	6-3	212
18. Daryl Jones, Sr., Miami (Fla.)	5-10	190
19. Kahlil Hill, Sr., Iowa	6-3	195
20. Keenan Howry, Jr., Oregon	5-10	167



Clemson QB  
Woodrow Dantzler

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



Nebraska G Toniu Fonoti



ROSS DETTMAN FOR TSN

21. Donald Shoals, Sr., Tulsa	5-10	175
22. Freddie Milons, Sr., Alabama	5-11	191
23. Deion Branch, Sr., Louisville	5-10	195
24. Pete Rebstock, Sr., Colorado State	5-9	190
25. John Standeford, So., Purdue	6-4	187

#### TIGHT ENDS

1. Tracey Wistrom, Sr., Nebraska	6-5	230
2. Jeremy Shockey, Jr., Miami (Fla.)	6-6	250
3. Robert Royal, Sr., LSU	6-5	231
4. Tim Stratton, Sr., Purdue	6-4	258
5. Jerramy Stevens, Jr., Washington	6-7	260
6. Randy McMichael, Jr., Georgia	6-4	228
7. Daniel Graham, Sr., Colorado	6-3	245
8. Chris Baker, Sr., Michigan State	6-3	265
9. Darnell Sanders, Jr., Ohio State	6-6	265
10. Derek Smith, Jr., Kentucky	6-6	265
11. Trent Smith, Jr., Oklahoma	6-5	229
12. Lorenzo Diamond, Jr., Auburn	6-3	248
13. Mike Banks, Sr., Iowa State	6-4	248
14. Mike Hart, Sr., Duke	6-6	246
15. Browning Wynn, Sr., Virginia Tech	6-3	230
16. L.J. Smith, Sr., Rutgers	6-4	215
17. Aaron Walker, Jr., Florida	6-6	250
18. Shawn Thompson, Sr., Michigan	6-4	254
19. Terry Jones Jr., Sr., Alabama	6-4	265
20. Willie Wright, Sr., NC State	6-4	226
21. Robert Johnson, So., Auburn	6-6	271
22. Bo Scaife, Jr., Texas	6-3	240
23. Justin Peelle, Sr., Oregon	6-5	246
24. Joey Knapp, Sr., UTEP	6-6	250
25. Mobolaji Afariogun, Jr., Western Michigan	6-4	230

#### CENTERS

1. Seth McKinney, Sr., Texas A&M	6-3	302
2. LeCharles Bentley, Sr., Ohio State	6-2	290
3. Chris Gibson, Sr., Oregon State	6-3	276
4. Kyle Young, Sr., Clemson	6-3	280
5. Luke Butkus, Sr., Illinois	6-4	290
6. Melvin Fowler, Sr., Maryland	6-3	292
7. Jeff Faine, Jr., Notre Dame	6-3	290
8. Scott Peters, Sr., Arizona State	6-3	290
9. Dan Koppen, Jr., Boston College	6-3	288
10. Brett Romberg, Jr., Miami (Fla.)	6-3	290
11. Antoine Mirambeau, Jr., Florida State	6-4	280
12. Kyle Benn, Sr., Washington	6-3	300
13. Gene Mruczkowski, Jr., Purdue	6-2	310
14. Vince Azzolina, So., Wake Forest	6-4	301
15. Craig Osika, Sr., Indiana	6-4	293
16. Ben Claxton, Jr., Mississippi	6-3	281
17. Austin King, Jr., Northwestern	6-4	280
18. Al Johnson, Jr., Wisconsin	6-4	280
19. A.J. Ricker, So., Missouri	6-5	287
20. Brian Ottney, So., Michigan State	6-6	308

#### GUARDS

1. Martin Bibla, Sr., Miami (Fla.)	6-4	290
2. Fred Weary, Sr., Tennessee	6-4	301
3. Montrae Holland, Jr., Florida State	6-3	325
4. Andre Gurode, Sr., Colorado	6-4	320
5. Toniu Fonoti, Jr., Nebraska	6-4	335
6. Antwan Kirk-Hughes, Sr., Texas	6-3	310
7. Kevin Breedlove, Jr., Georgia	6-4	311
8. Eric Heitmann, Sr., Stanford	6-4	295
9. Chris Fe'esago, Sr., San Jose State	6-3	328
10. Jonathan Goodwin, Sr., Michigan	6-4	294
11. Kenny Sandlin, Sr., Arkansas	6-3	319
12. Will Merritt, Sr., Clemson	6-3	260
13. Keith DiDomenico, Sr., Oregon State	6-5	320
14. Evan Routzahn, Sr., Virginia	6-5	303
15. Jeff Roehl, Jr., Northwestern	6-4	299
16. Jim Adams, Sr., Oregon	6-4	300
17. Mike Hayes, Sr., Missouri	6-3	308
18. Zach Wilson, Jr., USC	6-5	315
19. Bryan Anderson, Jr., Pittsburgh	6-5	305
20. Evan Routzahn, Sr., Virginia	6-5	303

#### TACKLES

1. Mike Pearson, Jr., Florida	6-7	291
2. Bryant McKinnie, Sr., Miami (Fla.)	6-9	330
3. Jon Stinchcomb, Jr., Georgia	6-6	278
4. Brett Williams, Jr., Florida State	6-6	315
5. Terrence Metcalf, Sr., Mississippi	6-3	315
6. Mike Williams, Sr., Texas	6-6	339
7. Kendall Simmons, Sr., Auburn	6-3	319
8. Dante Ellington, Jr., Alabama	6-6	354
9. Ben Johnson, Jr., Wisconsin	6-7	319
10. Frank Romero, Sr., Oklahoma	6-4	286
11. Melvin Paige, Sr., South Carolina	6-5	300
12. Levi Jones, Sr., Arizona State	6-6	294
13. Victor Rogers, Sr., Colorado	6-7	320
14. Jordan Black, Sr., Notre Dame	6-6	308
15. Dave Volk, Sr., Nebraska	6-5	290
16. Leon Brockmeier, Sr., Northwestern	6-7	302
17. John Bennett, So., Georgia Tech	6-5	290
18. Mark Wilson, So., California	6-6	295
19. Joaquin Gonzalez, Sr., Miami (Fla.)	6-5	290
20. Vincent Sandoval, Sr., Oregon State	6-4	307



# All-American rankings 2001

## ALL-DEFENSE

### ENDS

1. Alex Brown, Sr., Florida	6-4	262
2. Julius Peppers, Jr., North Carolina	6-6	270
3. Kenyon Coleman, Sr., UCLA	6-6	276
4. Cory Redding, Jr., Texas	6-5	260
5. Kindal Moorehead, Jr., Alabama	6-3	293
6. Will Overstreet, Sr., Tennessee	6-4	260
7. Jarvis Green, Sr., LSU	6-3	265
8. Carlos Hall, Sr., Arkansas	6-4	261
9. Akin Ayodele, Sr., Purdue	6-3	253
10. Grant Irons, Sr., Notre Dame	6-5	275
11. Greg Gathers, Jr., Georgia Tech	6-1	260
12. Dwight Freeney, Sr., Syracuse	6-1	250
13. Terrell Suggs, So., Arizona State	6-5	240
14. Chris Kelsay, Jr., Nebraska	6-5	255
15. Dennis Johnson, Jr., Kentucky	6-7	261
16. Anthony Weaver, Sr., Notre Dame	6-3	276
17. Bryan Knight, Sr., Pittsburgh	6-2	230
18. Michael Josiah, Jr., Louisville	6-4	235
19. Charles Grant, Jr., Georgia	6-3	265
20. Kalen Thornton, So., Texas	6-3	270

### TACKLES

1. John Henderson, Sr., Tennessee	6-7	290
2. Larry Tripplett, Sr., Washington	6-1	300
3. Wendell Bryant, Sr., Wisconsin	6-4	293
4. Jeremy Slechta, Sr., Nebraska	6-6	285
5. DeMarco McNeil, So., Auburn	6-1	301
6. David Pugh, Sr., Virginia Tech	6-3	271
7. Darnell Dockett, So., Florida State	6-4	260
8. Kenny King, Jr., Alabama	6-5	277
9. Matt Mittrione, Sr., Purdue	6-3	281
10. Dorsett Davis, Sr., Mississippi State	6-6	314
11. Josh Shaw, Sr., Michigan State	6-3	281
12. Jarret Johnson, Jr., Alabama	6-4	281
13. Mike Collins, Sr., Ohio State	6-3	290
14. Alan Harper, Sr., Fresno State	6-2	267
15. Jimmy Kennedy, Jr., Penn State	6-5	330
16. Nate Dwyer, Sr., Kansas	6-3	300
17. Justin Bannan, Sr., Colorado	6-3	295
18. Ryan Sims, Sr., North Carolina	6-4	285
19. Chad Beasley, Sr., Virginia Tech	6-5	277
20. Jordan Carstens, So., Iowa State	6-5	291

### INSIDE LINEBACKERS

1. Trev Faulk, Jr., LSU	6-3	225
2. Mario Haggan, Jr., Mississippi State	6-3	253
3. Jashon Sykes, Sr., Colorado	6-3	230
4. Andra Davis, Sr., Florida	6-1	250
5. Lance Briggs, Jr., Arizona	6-1	230
6. Robert Thomas, Sr., UCLA	6-2	237
7. Curtis Holden, Sr., Washington State	6-2	232
8. Josh Thornhill, Sr., Michigan State	6-2	234
9. Nick Greisen, Sr., Wisconsin	6-2	234
10. Ben Taylor, Sr., Virginia Tech	6-2	226
11. Eddie Strong, Jr., Mississippi	6-3	242
12. Pernell Griffin, Sr., East Carolina	6-3	240
13. Larry Foote, Sr., Michigan	6-1	228
14. Bradley Jennings, Sr., Florida State	6-3	230
15. Lawrence Flugence, Jr., Texas Tech	6-1	221
16. Clifton Smith, Jr., Syracuse	6-2	249
17. Solomon Bates, Jr., Arizona State	6-2	253

Notre Dame  
DE Grant Irons



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

18. D.D. Lewis, Sr., Texas	6-1	245
19. Matt Wilhelm, Jr., Ohio State	6-4	245
20. Dominique Stevenson, Sr., Tennessee	6-0	220

### OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

1. Rocky Calmus, Sr., Oklahoma	6-2	234
2. Saleem Rasheed, Jr., Alabama	6-3	217
3. Kalimba Edwards, Sr., South Carolina	6-6	262
4. Boss Bailey, Jr., Georgia	6-4	218
5. Joe Cooper, Sr., Ohio State	6-0	225
6. Ben Leber, Sr., Kansas State	6-4	250
7. Levar Fisher, Sr., NC State	6-1	229
8. James Allen, Sr., Oregon State	6-3	227
9. Gerald Hayes, Jr., Pittsburgh	6-3	240
10. Bradie James, Jr., LSU	6-3	228
11. Napoleon Harris, Sr., Northwestern	6-3	243
12. Victor Hobson, Jr., Michigan	6-1	242
13. Raonall Smith, Sr., Washington State	6-2	243
14. Rocky Boiman, Sr., Notre Dame	6-4	239
15. Kendyll Pope, So., Florida State	6-2	212
16. Grant Wiley, So., West Virginia	6-1	225
17. Taylor Suman, Sr., Temple	6-2	231
18. Randy Stella, Sr., Nebraska	6-0	200
19. Aaron Thompson, Sr., Maryland	6-1	234
20. Kevin Bentley, Sr., Northwestern	6-1	230

### CORNERBACKS

1. Quentin Jammer, Sr., Texas	6-1	198
2. Lito Sheppard, Jr., Florida	5-10	189
3. Phillip Buchanon, Jr., Miami (Fla.)	5-11	180
4. Dennis Weathersby, Jr., Oregon State	6-1	203
5. Derrick Strait, So., Oklahoma	5-11	194
6. Tim Wansley, Sr., Georgia	5-9	172
7. Mike Echols, Sr., Wisconsin	5-10	171
8. Sheldon Brown, Sr., South Carolina	5-10	192
9. Ronyell Whitaker, Jr., Virginia Tech	5-9	193
10. Andre Lott, Sr., Tennessee	5-11	185
11. Cedric Henry, Sr., Michigan State	5-10	180
12. Keyuo Craver, Sr., Nebraska	5-10	190
13. Kevin Thomas, Sr., UNLV	5-11	180
14. Rashad Bauman, Sr., Oregon	5-8	180
15. Ricky Manning, Jr., UCLA	5-9	180



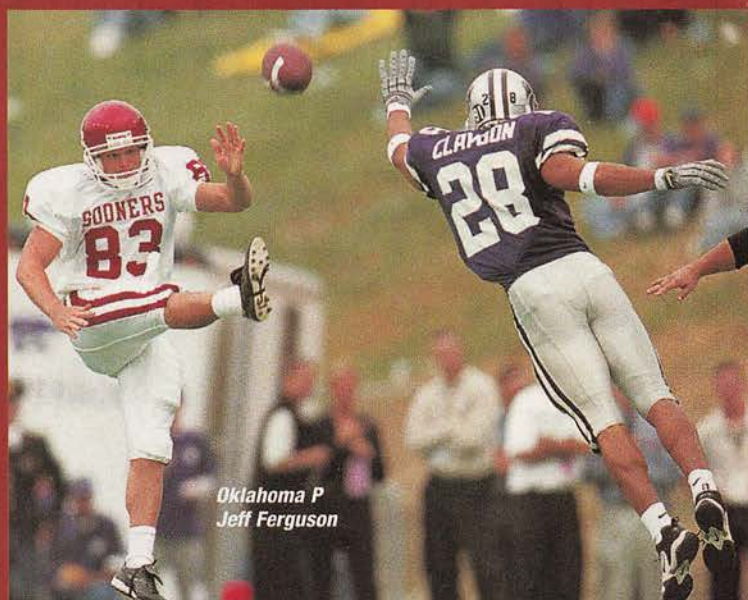
16. Todd Howard, Sr., Michigan	5-10	183
17. Lenny Walls, Sr., Boston College	6-4	191
18. Michael Jolivet, So., Arizona	5-9	175
19. Errol Hood, Sr., North Carolina	5-11	195
20. Mike Rumph, Sr., Miami (Fla.)	6-2	205

#### STRONG SAFETIES

1. Mike Doss, Jr., Ohio State	5-11	197
2. Roy Williams, Jr., Oklahoma	6-0	221
3. Edward Reed, Sr., Miami (Fla.)	6-0	190
4. Pig Prather, Sr., Mississippi State	6-2	195
5. Kevin Curtis, Sr., Texas Tech	6-3	209
6. Marques Anderson, Sr., UCLA	6-0	201
7. Marquand Manuel, Sr., Florida	6-0	202
8. Anthony Floyd, Jr., Louisville	5-10	195
9. Michael Lewis, Sr., Colorado	6-1	210
10. Chris Young, Sr., Georgia Tech	6-0	207
11. Gerome Sapp, Jr., Notre Dame	6-0	213
12. Ken Hamlin, So., Arkansas	6-2	193
13. Ralph Turner, Jr., Purdue	6-2	210
14. Terreal Bierria, Sr., Georgia	6-3	204
15. Thomas Wright, Jr., Michigan State	6-1	193

#### FREE SAFETIES

1. Chris Hope, Sr., Florida State	6-0	205
2. Ryan Clark, Sr., LSU	5-11	185
3. Ramon Walker, Jr., Pittsburgh	6-0	195
4. Stuart Schweigert, So., Purdue	6-3	202
5. Willie Pile, Jr., Virginia Tech	6-3	204
6. Tank Williams, Sr., Stanford	6-3	215
7. Lamont Thompson, Sr., Washington St.	6-2	213
8. Jeremy Muyres, Jr., Georgia Tech	6-3	205
9. Cato June, Jr., Michigan	6-1	213
10. Chad Williams, Jr., Southern Miss	5-10	200
11. Donnie Nickey, Jr., Ohio State	6-3	203
12. Samir Al-Amin, Sr., Baylor	6-1	219
13. Quintin Mikell, Jr., Boise State	5-10	171
14. Greg Carothers, So., Washington	6-2	205
15. John McGraw, Sr., Kansas State	6-3	200



Oklahoma P  
Jeff Ferguson

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

## SPECIAL TEAMS

#### KICKERS

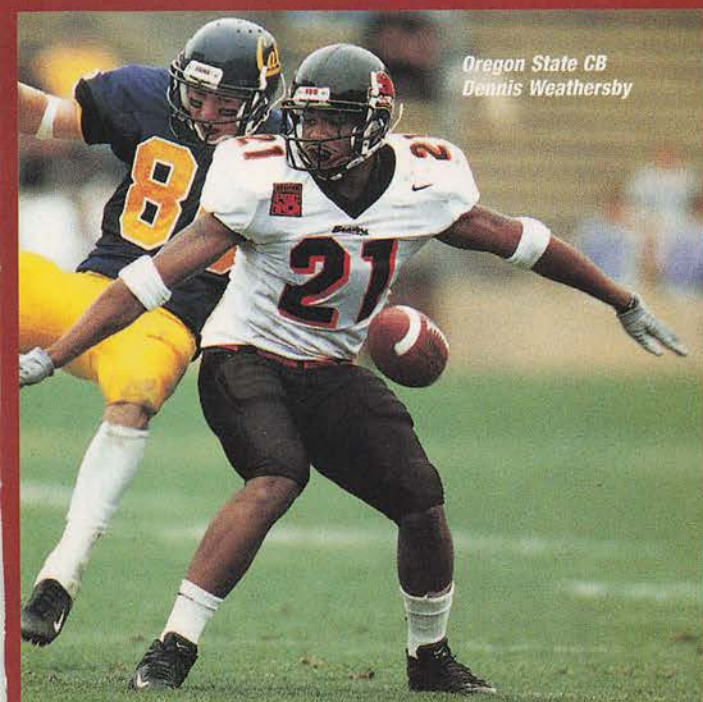
1. Jeff Chandler, Sr., Florida	6-2	217
2. Alex Walls, Jr., Tennessee	6-1	175
3. Tim Duncan, Sr., Oklahoma	6-2	198
4. Jonathon Ruffin, Jr., Cincinnati	5-10	189
5. John Anderson, Jr., Washington	6-2	185
6. Luke Manget, Jr., Georgia Tech	5-9	176
7. Carter Warley, So., Virginia Tech	5-11	184
8. Jeff Reed, Sr., North Carolina	6-0	200
9. Ryan Cesca, Jr., Oregon State	5-8	167
10. Dan Nystrom, Jr., Minnesota	5-11	205
11. Todd Sievers, Jr., Miami (Fla.)	6-0	180
12. Hayden Epstein, Sr., Michigan	6-2	205

#### PUNTERS

1. Damon Duval, Jr., Auburn	6-0	184
2. Jeff Ferguson, Sr., Oklahoma	5-10	190
3. Preston Gruening, Jr., Minnesota	5-10	204
4. Nate Fikse, Jr., UCLA	5-9	180
5. Hayden Epstein, Sr., Michigan	6-2	205
6. Craig Jarrett, Sr., Michigan State	6-2	212
7. Nick Murphy, Sr., Arizona State	6-0	188
8. Richie Butler, Jr., Arkansas	6-1	222
9. Freddie Capshaw, Jr., Miami (Fla.)	5-11	180
10. Casey Roussel, Sr., Tulane	6-1	223
11. Mark Fazzolari, Jr., West Virginia	6-0	190
12. Adam Stiles, Sr., Baylor	6-5	236

#### RETURN MEN

1. Freddie Milons, Sr., Alabama	5-11	191
2. Nick Davis, Sr., Wisconsin	5-10	183
3. Lito Sheppard, Jr., Florida	5-10	189
4. Aaron Lockett, Sr., Kansas State	5-7	165
5. Kelly Campbell, Sr., Georgia Tech	5-11	170
6. Bobby Wade, Jr., Arizona	5-11	187
7. Leonard Scott, Jr., Tennessee	5-11	170
8. John Stone, Sr., Wake Forest	5-11	180
9. Domanick Davis, Jr., LSU	5-10	207
10. Kahlil Hill, Sr., Iowa	6-3	195
11. Andre Davis, Sr., Virginia Tech	6-1	196
12. Victor Ike, Jr., Texas	5-11	195



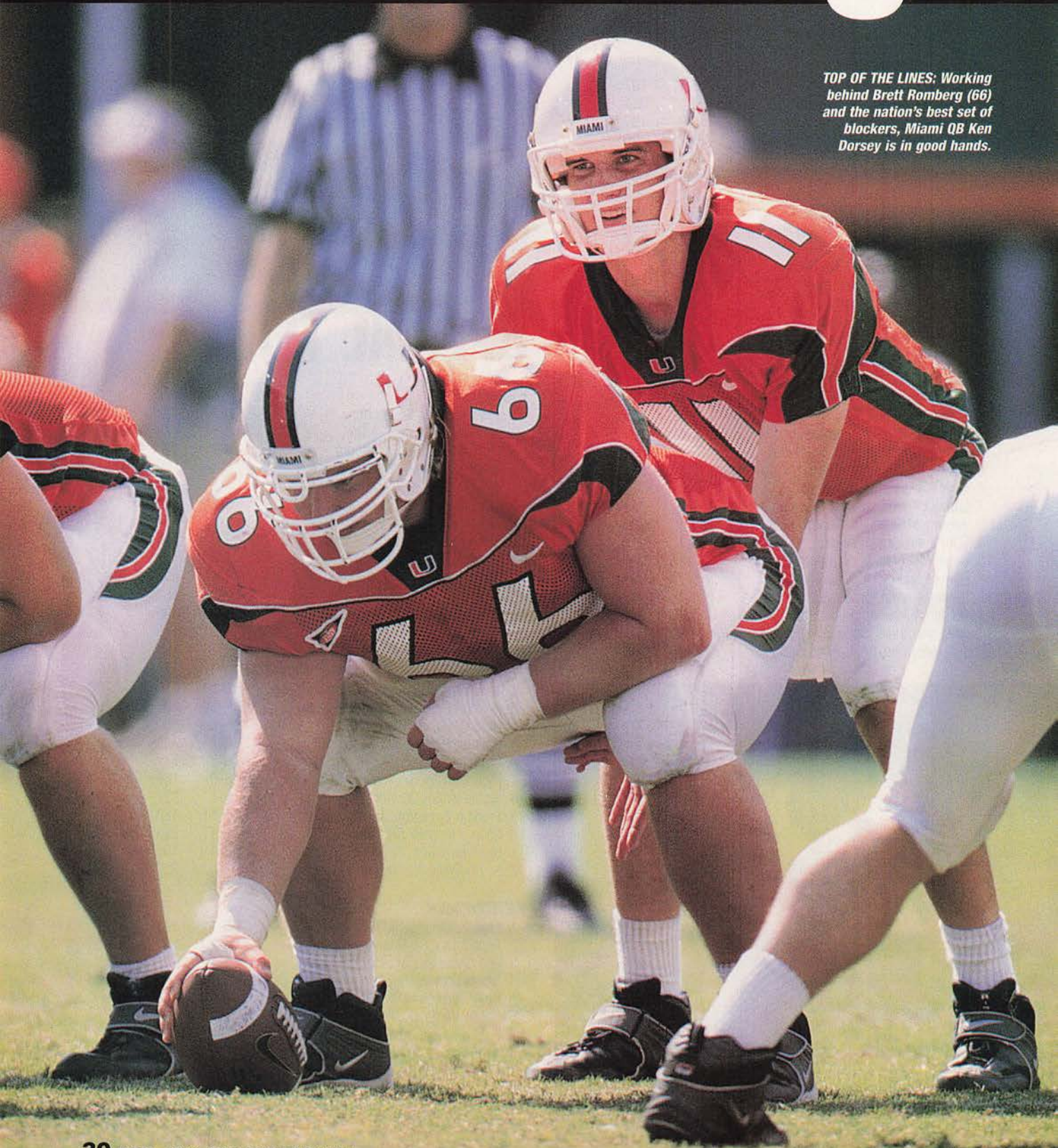
Oregon State CB  
Dennis Weathersby

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN



# Unit rankings

**TOP OF THE LINES:** Working behind Brett Romberg (66) and the nation's best set of blockers, Miami QB Ken Dorsey is in good hands.





# OFFENSE

## LINE

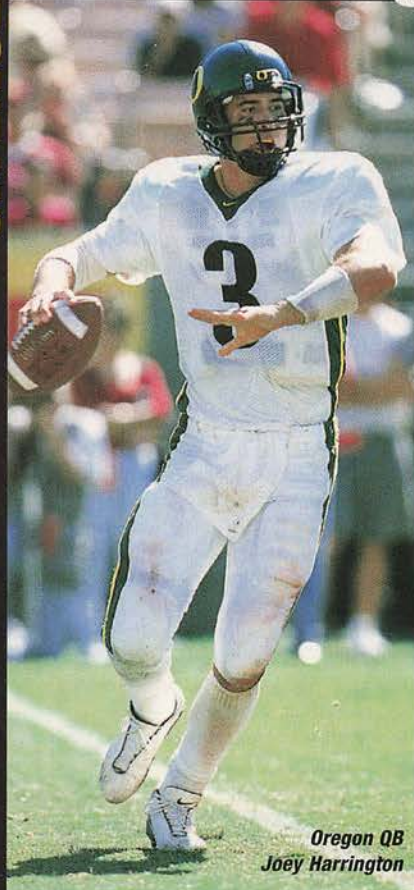
1. **Miami** (G Martin Bibla, G Vernon Carey, T Joaquin Gonzalez, G Sherko Haji-Rasouli, T Bryant McKinnie, C Brett Romberg). McKinnie's decision to put off the NFL for a year means this wall can withstand any push.
2. **Texas** (C Matt Anderson, G/T Derrick Dockery, G Antwan Kirk-Hughes, G Tillman Holloway, T Alfio Randall, T Mike Williams). Leonard Davis will be missed, but everyone else is back. Williams could be a stud.
3. **Northwestern** (T Leon Brockmeier, G Lance Clelland, G Adam Fay, C Austin King, G Jeff Roehl, T Mike Souza). If size and experience count, the Wildcats will have their way with many teams. Roehl and King are future stars.
4. **Stanford** (T Kirk Chambers, T Kwame Harris, G Eric Heitmann, C Mike Holman, C Zack Quaccia, G Greg Schindler, G Paul Weinacht). Heitmann is the anchor, while Harris, a future standout, is as big as his hype.
5. **Arizona State** (C Regis Crawford, G Drew Hodgdon, T Levi Jones, T Kyle Kosier, T Brandon Macias, T Damien Niko, C Scott Peters, T Travis Scott). Peters, a three-year starter, is a versatile force. Jones looks to be pro caliber.
6. **Tennessee** (T Reggie Coleman, T Anthony Herrera, T Michael Munoz, G Will Offenheuse, C Jason Respert, G Fred Weary, C Scott Wells). This group suffered growing pains last year. Weary is a strong man; Munoz is a man-child.
7. **Clemson** (T Derrick Brantley, T Gary Byrd, G Will Merritt, T Akil Smith, G Gregory Walker, G T.J. Watkins, C Kyle Young). A sleek group gets a boost from the return of Smith from a blood-clot problem. Young is the anchor in the middle.
8. **Colorado** (T Karl Allis, G Justin Bates, G Ryan Gray, G Andre Gurode, G Marwan Hage, C Wayne Lucier, T Dan Major, T Victor Rogers). It all begins with Gurode's strength inside. Rogers, who looks like a future pro, is looking to build on a strong finish to 2000.
9. **Virginia** (T Jermese Jones, G Josh Lawson, G Evan Routzahn, C Jared Woodson, T Kevin Bailey). There may be no better guard tandem than that of Routzahn and Lawson, a big-time prospect. Jones can seal off and pancake, traits the Cavaliers' new quarterback will appreciate.
10. **California** (C Nolan Bluntzer, C Brandon Ludwig, T Eric O'Brien, G Scott Tercero, T Mark Wilson, T Langston Walker). Ludwig and Tercero provide a good push up the middle.



**FILLING THE GAP:** The Longhorns lost standout Leonard Davis to the NFL, but they're still solid along the line behind returnees such as Kirk-Hughes (77).



## Unit rankings



Oregon QB  
Joey Harrington

TODD WARSHAW FOR TSN

## BACKFIELDS

- 1. Miami** (FB Najeh Davenport, QB Derrick Crudup, QB Ken Dorsey, RB Willis McGahee, RB Jarrett Payton, RB Clinton Portis). Even with James Jackson gone, the group is loaded with size (Davenport) and speed (Portis). Keep an eye on McGahee.
- 2. Florida** (QB Brock Berlin, RB Earnest Graham, RB Robert Gillespie, QB Rex Grossman, FB Rob Roberts). If Grossman and Berlin fail to shine, the Gators might want to run more with Graham and Gillespie in the lineup.
- 3. Oregon** (QB Joey Harrington, FB Josh Line, RB Maurice Morris, RB Onterio Smith). Harrington doesn't get enough publicity. Smith was a mega prep player who began his career at Tennessee.
- 4. Oregon State** (RB Patrick McCall, QB Jonathan Smith, RB Ken Simonton). Lots of proven production here in Smith and Simonton. McCall is a bigger back who began his career at Michigan.
- 5. Northwestern** (RB Damien Anderson, RB Noah Herron, QB Zak Kustok, RB Kevin Lawrence, RB Torri Stuckey). It begins with the country's top runner in Anderson. Kustok isn't pretty, but he makes smart decisions in the no-huddle attack.
- 6. Clemson** (QB Woodrow Dantzler, FB Chad Jasmin, FB Keith Kelly, RB Bernard Rambert, QB Willie Simmons, RB Travis Zachery). There's great depth at quarterback. Look for Kelly to step up as a complement to Zachery.
- 7. Notre Dame** (RB Tony Fisher, RB Terrence Howard, RB Julius Jones, FB Tom Lopienski, QB Matt LoVecchio). Jones and Fisher are a dynamic duo that can wear down foes. LoVecchio looks poised to become one of the school's top passers.
- 8. Mississippi State** (FB Justin Griffith, QB Wayne Madkin, RB Denczo Miller, RB Dontae Walker). Madkin is entering his fourth year as a starter. Miller and Walker are physical runners, while Griffith brings versatility to the table.
- 9. Michigan State** (RB Tyrell Dortch, RB T.J. Duckett, RB Little John Flowers, FB Dawan Moss, QB Jeff Smoker, QB Ryan Van Dyke). Sophomore Smoker looks ready to emerge, while Duckett is the nation's top big back.
- 10. LSU** (QB Rohan Davey, RB Domanick Davis, RB Devery Henderson, RB Derron Parquet, RB LaBrandon Toefield). The key is keeping Davey healthy. Toefield looks like the man. Davis (secondary) and Henderson (receiver) could be moved. Parquet has the look of a future star.

## RECEIVERS

- 1. Oklahoma** (WR Curtis Fagan, WR Damian Mackey, WR Josh Norman, WR Will Peoples, WR Antwone Savage, TE Trent Smith, WR Andre Woolfolk). There's size, speed, good hands and championship experience. What more could you want?
  - 2. Texas** (WR Artie Ellis, WR Montrell Flowers, WR Tony Jeffery, WR B.J. Johnson, TE Bo Scaife, WR Kyle Shanahan, WR Sloan Thomas, WR Roy Williams). The sophomore trio of Williams, Johnson and Thomas is second to none. Scaife must stay healthy.
  - 3. LSU** (TE Eric Edwards, WR Jerel Myers, WR Josh Reed, WR Reggie Robinson, TE Robert Royal, WR Corey Webster). Reed and Myers are a great duo, and no school may have a better collection of tight ends.
  - 4. Florida** (WR Reche Caldwell, WR Jabar Gaffney, WR Brian Haugabrook, WR Taylor Jacobs, WR Kelvin Knight, WR Carlos Perez, WR Reggie Vickers, TE Kirk Wells). It would be hard to find a better tandem than Caldwell and Gaffney, who is a superstar. The depth is good.
  - 5. Alabama** (WR Antonio Carter, TE Terry Jones Jr., WR Jason McAddley, WR Freddie Milons). Whoever lines up at quarterback will have playmakers in Carter and Milons, whose skills were
- wasted by last season's coaching staff. Jones can make plays.
- 6. Minnesota** (WR Antoine Burns, WR Antoine Henderson, WR Ron Johnson, WR Elvin Jones, WR Keith Matthews, WR Jermaine Mays, TE Ben Utecht). Johnson, who is cut from the Cris Carter mold, is the best receiver you haven't heard of. Watch for Utecht to bloom.
  - 7. USC** (WR Marcell Allmond, WR Keary Colbert, TE Alex Holmes, WR Kareem Kelly, WR Steve Stevenson). Lots of speed on a unit headed by Kelly. Holmes is one of several capable tight ends.
  - 8. Michigan State** (TE Chris Baker, WR Herb Haygood, WR BJ Lovett, TE Ivory McCoy, WR Charles Rogers, WR Marcus Waters). Few schools have a better tight end tandem. Rogers now is available after failing to qualify academically last year.
  - 9. Virginia Tech** (WR Andre Davis, WR Emmett Johnson, WR Richard Johnson, WR Shawn Witten, TE Browning Wynn). Davis and Richard Johnson offer plenty of speed to burn. The group has decent depth.

Florida WR  
Reche Caldwell

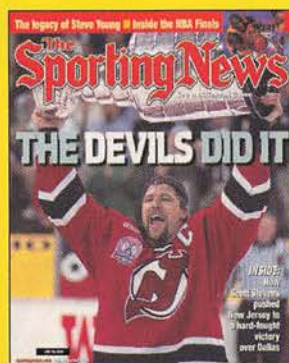
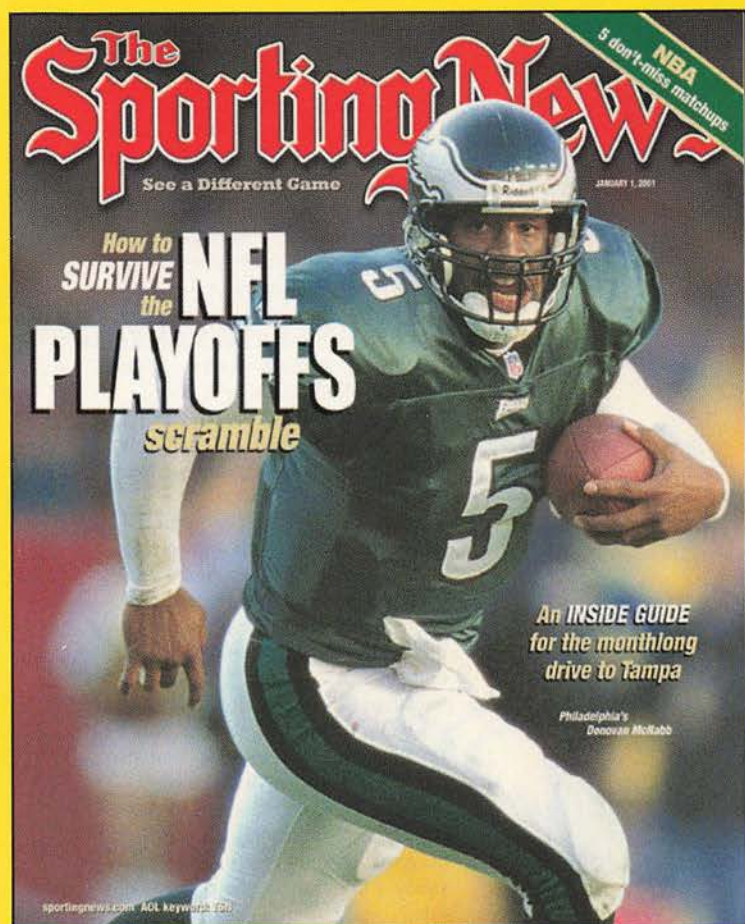


ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

- 10. Georgia Tech** (WR Kelly Campbell, WR Nate Curry, WR Will Glover, TE Russell Matvay, WR Kerry Watkins). Campbell and Watkins are a dangerous tandem. Curry could break out this year.



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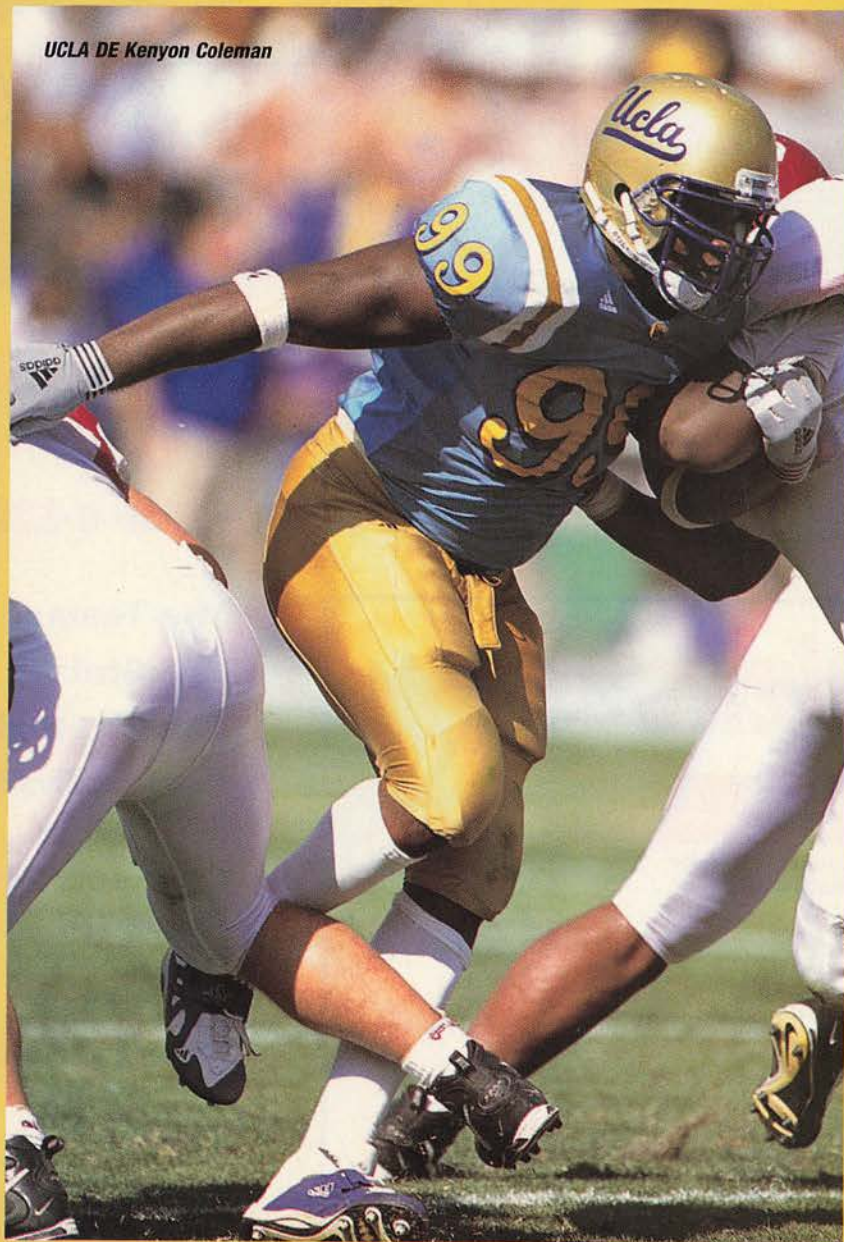


Alabama DT  
Kenny King



TODD WARSHAW FOR TSN

UCLA DE Kenyon Coleman



TODD WARSHAW FOR TSN

1. **Tennessee** (T Albert Haynesworth, T John Henderson, E Bernard Jackson, T Edward Kendrick, T Rashad Moore, E Will Overstreet). The presence of Outland Trophy winner Henderson automatically makes this unit a great group. Haynesworth is ready to emerge.
2. **Oklahoma** (T Jamal Brown, E Dan Cody, E Corey Heinecke, T Bary Holleyman, T Kory Klein, T Juan Prishker, E Eric Thunander). Youngsters Brown and Prishker could become special players.
3. **UCLA** (E Dave Ball, E Mat Ball, E Kenyon Coleman, T Anthony Fletcher, T Ken Kocher, T Rodney Leisle, E Rusty Williams). With healthy returns by Coleman and Kocher, who both saw their 2000 seasons wrecked by injury, depth could be an asset.
4. **Virginia Tech** (E Nathaniel Adibi, T Chad Beasley, E Lamar Cobb, E Jim Davis, T David Pugh). Coaches think Davis could be the team's next monster pass rusher. Beasley and Pugh are run-stuffing tackles who have been there and done that.
5. **Michigan** (E Norman Boebert, T Grant Bowman, E Evan Coleman, E Jake Frysinger, E Alain Kashama, T Shawn Lazarus, E Shantee Orr, T Dave Pearson, T Dave Petruziello, T Gary Rose, E Dan Rumishek, E Larry Stevens). This unit, the epitome of strength in numbers, should wear down foes.
6. **Alabama** (T Kenny King, T Jarret Johnson, E Nautyn McKay-Loesher, E Aries Monroe, E Kindal Moorehead). The group gets a boost from the return of Moorehead, who missed last year with an Achilles injury.
7. **LSU** (T Muskingum Barnes, T Howard Green, E Jarvis Green, E Kyle Kipps, T Torran Williams). Jarvis Green brings the heat from the edge, while Barnes mucks it up inside. Williams is a JC transfer worth watching.
8. **Texas** (E Jermain Anderson, T Adam Doiron, T Stevie Lee, E Cory Redding, E Kalen Thornton, T Marcus Tubbs) Lee, Doiron and Tubbs get first crack at filling in for Shaun Rogers and Casey Hampton—and they look good.
9. **Nebraska** (E Demoiné Adams, E Chris Kelsay, T Jason Lohr, T Jeremy Slechta, E Justin Smith, E Benard Thomas). Slechta is a Coke machine-sized tackle. Adams is one of several ends who must generate a strong rush.
10. **Purdue** (E Akin Ayodele, T Luke Burroughs, E Vedran Dzolovic, T Matt Mitrione, E Shaun Phillips, T Craig Terrill). Ayodele is a big-play guy who also might play some outside linebacker. Phillips is a rising star, while Mitrione is an active force.





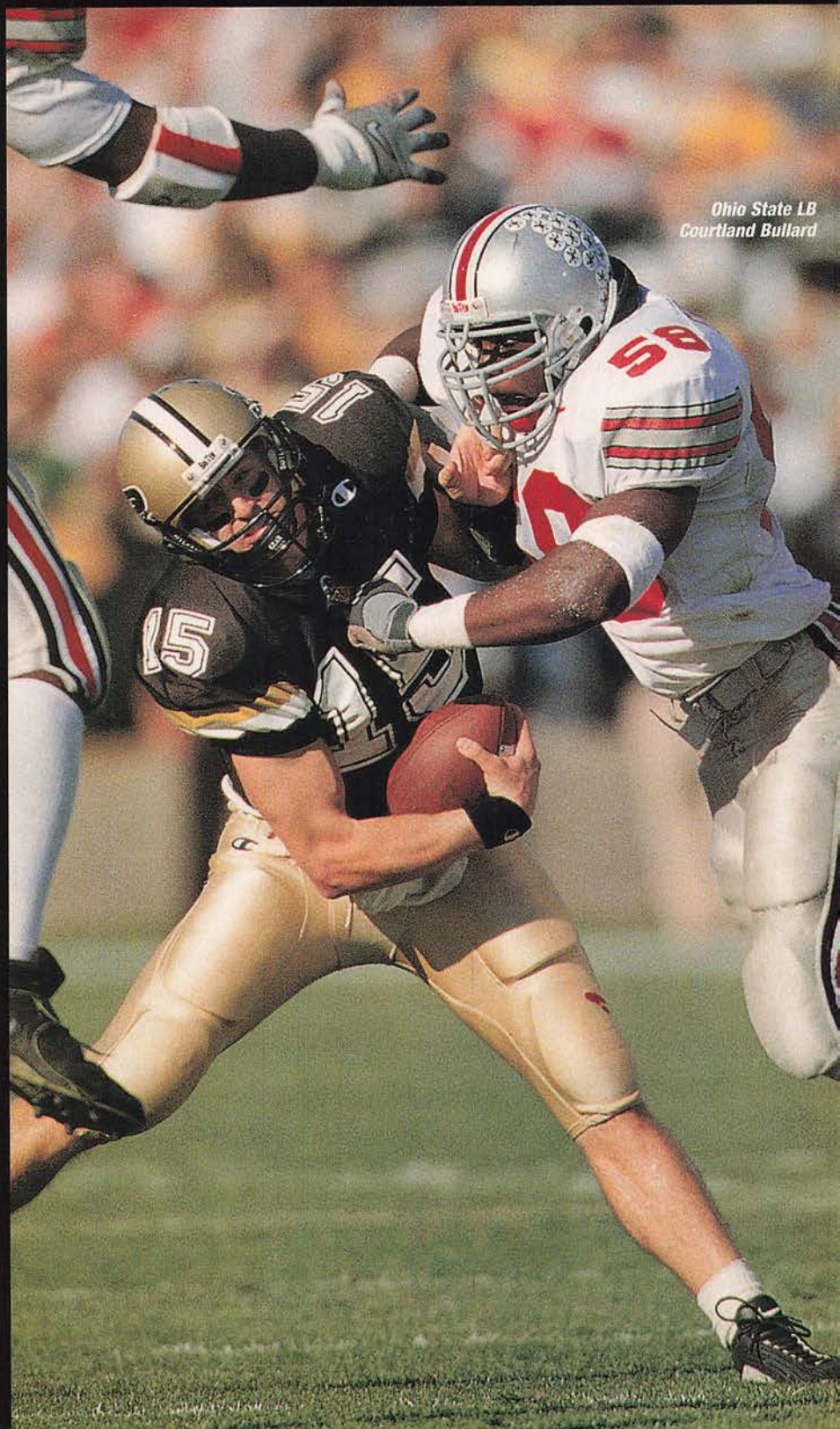
Michigan  
LB Victor  
Hobson

# DEFENSE

## LINEBACKERS

- 1. LSU** (OLB Thomas Dunson, MLB Trev Faulk, OLB Bradie James, OLB Jeremy Lawrence). A frightening combination of size and speed that is a throwback to another era. Faulk is the main man.
- 2. Georgia** (OLB Boss Bailey, OLB Ryan Fleming, OLB Tony Gilbert, MLB Adrian Hollingshed, OLB Will Witherspoon). An ability to cover from sideline to sideline makes these guys special.
- 3. Alabama** (MLB Marvin Constant, MLB Darius Gilbert, SLB Victor Ellis, MLB Saleem Rasheed). Rasheed is the special talent, but don't discount the steadiness of the guys inside.
- 4. Ohio State** (OLB Courtland Bullard, OLB Joe Cooper, MLB Jason Ott, MLB Fred Pagac, MLB Matt Wilhelm). Cooper being granted another year of eligibility was a boon for this fast-rising unit. Wilhelm is an active force worth watching.
- 5. Washington State** (MLB Curtis Holden, OLB Serign Marong, MLB James Price, OLB Melvin Simmons, OLB Raonall Smith). There may be no better tandem than Holden and Smith, who both eventually will play on Sundays.
- 6. Oregon State** (LB James Allen, LB Nick Barnett, LB Jason Lowe, MLB Richard Seigler). Allen is the veteran stud. Seigler will look to build on a big freshman year for a unit that has surprising speed.
- 7. Michigan** (ILB Phillip Brackins, ILB Carl Diggs, ILB Larry Foote, OLB Victor Hobson, ILB Anthony Jordan, OLB John Spytek). Foote is the star on another deep Wolverine defensive unit that should come at foes in waves.
- 8. Texas** (OLB Tyrone Jones, MLB D.D. Lewis, OLB O.J. McClintock, OLB Everick Rawls, OLB Aurmon Satchell). Lewis is the leader of a group that benefits from a good line in front of it.
- 9. Nebraska** (MLB Jamie Burrow, OLB T.J. Hollowell, OLB Scott Shanle, OLB Randy Stella, MLB Tony Tata, OLB Mark Vedral). There's no Carlos Polk, but there's lots of speed on the outside. Burrow is an inside plugger.
- 10. Northwestern** (OLB Kevin Bentley, OLB Pat Durr, OLB Napoleon Harris, MLB Billy Silva). This is a unit that has seen a lot of action. Harris is an athletic sort who eventually will play on Sundays. Bentley is a tackling machine.

TOP: TODD ANDERSON FOR TSN; RIGHT: PAUL NISELY / TSN



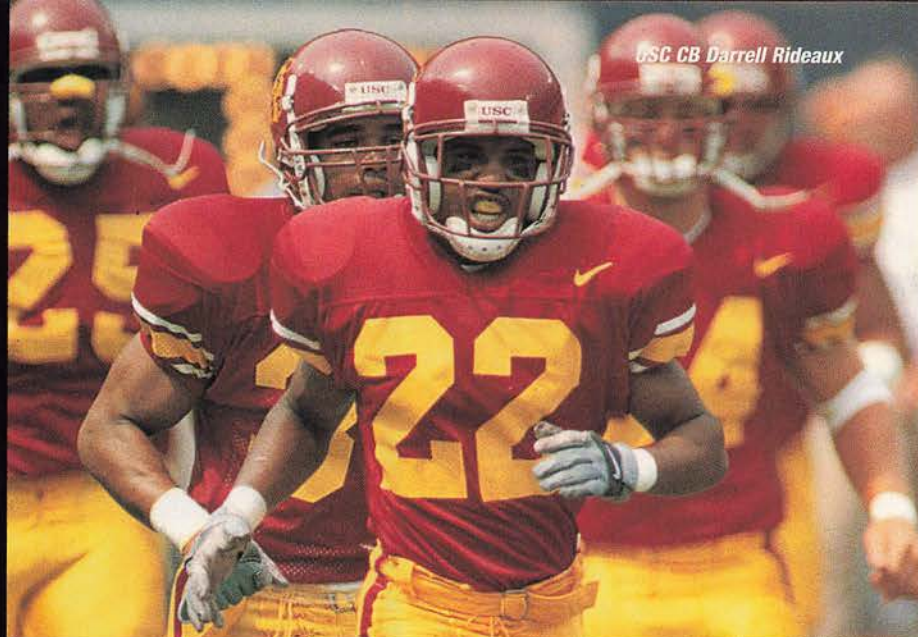
Ohio State LB  
Courtland Bullard



Unit Rankings  
SECONDARY

1. **Florida** (CB Lito Sheppard, CB Robert Cromartie, FS Daryl Dixon, FS Todd Johnson, SS Marquand Manuel, CB Keiwan Ratliff). Sheppard is the big-play guy for a unit that will allow the Gators to play lots of man coverage.
2. **Oklahoma** (FS Brandon Everage, CB Derrick Strait, CB Antonio Perkins, SS Roy Williams). What's scary is the fact there isn't a senior in this unit that plays a significant role. Williams is a special player.
3. **USC** (CB Kevin Arbet, CB Chris Cash, FS DeShaun Hill, SS Troy Polamalu, CB Kris Richard, CB Darrell Rideaux, CB Antuan Simmons, FS Frank Strong). A great array of talent. Simmons is

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN



USC CB Darrell Rideaux

Nebraska CB DeJuan Groce



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

coming back from an abdominal tumor. Richard gets after it.

4. **Oregon State** (SS Calvin Carlyle, FS Jake Cookus, CB D.J. Coote, SS Mitch Meeuwsen, FS Terrell Roberts, CB Dennis Weathersby, CB Aric Williams). Coote is a JC transfer with big credentials. Weathersby is the star. Meeuwsen could be special.
5. **Nebraska** (SS Willie Amos, FS Dion Booker, CB Keyuo Craver, CB DeJuan Groce, CB Erwin Swiney). These guys have lots of speed, but they also provide strong run coverage. Craver is the best of the bunch.
6. **Texas** (CB Roderick Babers, CB Ahmad Brooks, CB Ervis Hill, SS Lee Jackson, CB Quentin Jammer, FS Dakarai Pearson). Looking for the next great cornerback? Look no further than Jammer. Coaches want the four fastest on the field, regardless of position.
7. **Miami** (CB Phillip Buchanon, CB Markese Fitzgerald, FS James Lewis, SS Edward Reed, CB Mike Rumph). Reed is a headhunter for a group that teams with speed and athletic ability. Buchanon was last year's surprise.
8. **Arizona** (CB Anthony Banks, CB Jermaine Chatman, FS Clay Hardt, CB David Hinton, CB Michael Jolivet, SS Brandon Nash, FS Jarvie Worcester). This group offers depth and talent for the double-eagle flex defense. Jolivet was a freshman sensation last year.
9. **Ohio State** (CB Curtis Crosby, SS Mike Doss, CB Richard McNutt, FS Donnie Nickey, CB Derek Ross). Doss is the boss. Even the losses of Nate Clements and David Mitchell won't slow this squad.
10. **Oregon** (CB Rashad Bauman, CB Charles Favroth, CB A.K. Keyes, SS Gary McGraw, CB Steven Moore, CB Steve Smith, FS Rasuli Webster). Moore, a non-qualifier last year, is an exciting prospect. Bauman is the undisputed leader for a group that can play man.



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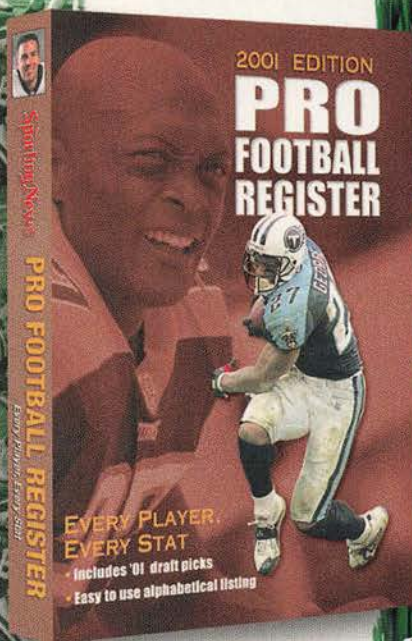
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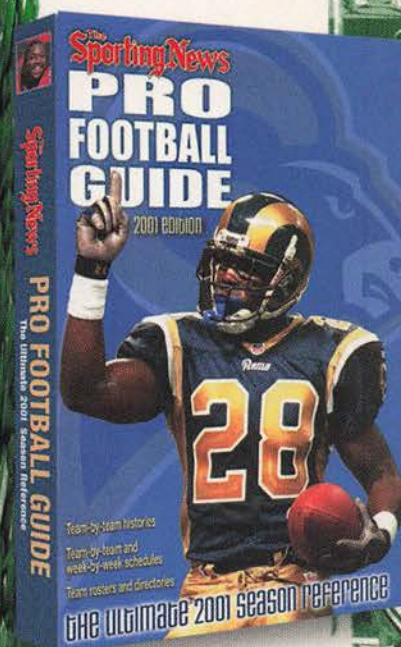
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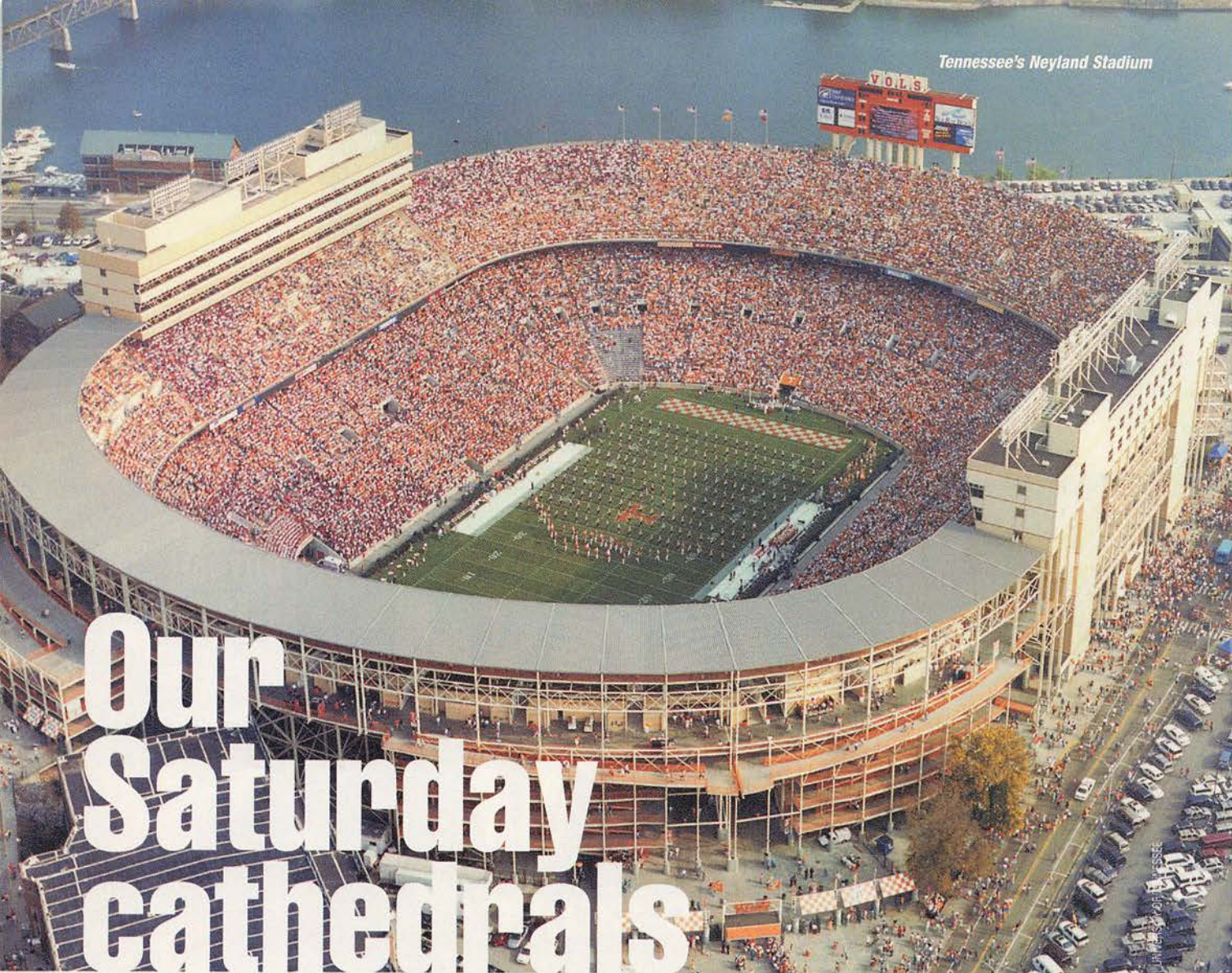
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# Our Saturday cathedrals

They are the shrines of college football, standing loud and proud all over the country. We rank the top five stadiums in the nation and rank the stadiums within each conference. For a more detailed breakdown, plus photos and the top 10 rankings of coaches around the nation, go to [sportingnews.com/cfootball/stadiums](http://sportingnews.com/cfootball/stadiums).

**1. Neyland Stadium:** There's not a better view in college football. On one side of the stadium is the Tennessee River, where fans arrive by boat and tailgate hours before kickoff and hours after the game. On the other side is The Hill, the historic center of UT's old campus. Rising above it all are the Smoky Mountains, a perfect scenic backdrop for a fall Saturday afternoon. Former UT broadcaster George Mooney navigated his small runabout down the river in 1962, spawning what is now called the Volunteer Navy. It all comes together moments before kickoff when the Vols run through the big T formed by the Pride of the Southland Band, perfectly packaging game day.

**2. Notre Dame Stadium:** The best part of town is the campus, where you'll find a little bit of heaven. All within walking distance of the stadium are these great venues: the

Golden Dome, the Grotto, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and the Hesburgh Library that features "Touchdown Jesus" on its side. Walking the campus on a fall Saturday morning is enough to inspire any Notre Dame-hater to belt out "Hail, hail to old Notre Dame!" And don't forget about the seven Heisman winners and 11 national titles.

**3. Florida Field:** Gator fans are nasty and noisy, relentless and repulsive. And that's *before* kickoff. Nothing can prepare teams for the experience of game day. And forget about hand fans or wet towels or any other cooling device. It's hot and humid, so deal with it. There's a reason Florida coach Steve Spurrier dubbed it, "The Swamp."

**4. Kyle Field:** Silver Taps, the 12th man, the Elephant Walk. The beauty of game day in College Station. Yell Leaders decked out

in white lead the throng in cheers with school mascot Reveille, a collie, standing watch over the field. At midnight the night before games, as many as 40,000 fans turn out at Kyle Field to practice yells. On game days, Texas A&M students stand the entire game, except when the opposing band performs at halftime.

**5. Husky Stadium:** The stadium stretches high into the sky, giving it a bigger-than-life feel, and almost 70 percent of the seats are between the end zones. A large overhang protects fans from the elements. Before the place was built, planners wanted to limit the glare of the sun into the stadium. To do that, the astronomy department took measurements to establish the axis of the stadium. Planners also wanted to make sure to maximize the views of Lake Washington and surrounding mountains.



# Conference rankings

## ACC

1. Memorial Stadium (Clemson)
2. Bobby Dodd Stadium/Grant Field (Georgia Tech)
3. Kenan Stadium (North Carolina)
4. Doak Campbell Stadium (Florida State)
5. Scott Stadium (Virginia)
6. Wallace Wade Stadium (Duke)
7. Byrd Stadium (Maryland)
8. Carter-Finley Stadium (N.C. State)
9. Groves Stadium (Wake Forest)

## Big East

1. Mountaineer Field (West Virginia)
2. Carrier Dome (Syracuse)
3. Alumni Stadium (Boston College)
4. Orange Bowl (Miami)
5. Lane Stadium (Virginia Tech)
6. Rutgers Stadium (Rutgers)
7. Three Rivers Stadium (Pittsburgh)
8. Veterans Stadium (Temple)

## Big Ten

1. Michigan Stadium (Michigan)
2. Camp Randall Stadium (Wisconsin)
3. Ohio Stadium (Ohio State)
4. Beaver Stadium (Penn State)
5. Ross-Ade Stadium (Purdue)
6. Memorial Stadium (Illinois)
7. Spartan Stadium (Michigan State)
8. Kinnick Stadium (Iowa)
9. Ryan Field (Northwestern)
10. Memorial Stadium (Indiana)
11. Metrodome (Minnesota)

## Big 12

1. Kyle Field (Texas A&M)
2. Memorial Stadium (Nebraska)
3. Memorial Stadium (Texas)
4. Folsom Field (Colorado)
5. Owen Field (Oklahoma)
6. Faurot Field (Missouri)
7. Memorial Stadium (Kansas)
8. KSU Stadium (Kansas State)
9. Jones Stadium (Texas Tech)
10. Lewis Field (Oklahoma State)
11. Jack Trice Stadium (Iowa State)
12. Floyd Casey Stadium (Baylor)

## Conference USA

1. Michie Stadium (Army)
2. Amon G. Carter Stadium (Texas Christian)
3. Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium (East Carolina)
4. Nippert Stadium (Cincinnati)
5. Legion Field (Alabama-Birmingham)
6. Papa John's Stadium (Louisville)
7. Roberts Stadium (Southern Mississippi)
8. Liberty Bowl (Memphis)
9. Superdome (Tulane)
10. Robertson Stadium (Houston)

## MAC

1. Glass Bowl (Toledo)
2. Waldo Stadium (Western Michigan)
3. Marshall Stadium (Marshall)
4. Kelly-Shorts Stadium (Central Michigan)
5. Yager Bowl (Miami)
6. Peden Stadium (Ohio)
7. Dix Stadium (Kent State)
8. Doyt L. Perry Stadium (Bowling Green)
9. University of Buffalo Stadium (Buffalo)
10. Rubber Bowl (Akron)
11. Huskie Stadium (Northern Illinois)
12. Ball State Stadium (Ball State)
13. Rynearson Stadium (Eastern Michigan)

## Mountain West

1. LaVell Edwards Stadium (Brigham Young)
2. Falcon Stadium (Air Force)
3. Rice-Eccles Stadium (Utah)
4. Memorial Stadium (Wyoming)
5. Hughes Stadium (Colorado State)
6. Qualcomm Stadium (San Diego State)
7. Sam Boyd Stadium (UNLV)
8. University Stadium (New Mexico)

## Pac-10

1. Husky Stadium (Washington)
2. Autzen Stadium (Oregon)
3. Rose Bowl (UCLA)
4. Los Angeles Coliseum (Southern California)
5. Stanford Stadium (Stanford)
6. Memorial Stadium (California)
7. Sun Devil Stadium (Arizona State)
8. Arizona Stadium (Arizona)
9. Reser Stadium (Oregon State)
10. Martin Stadium (Washington State)

## SEC

1. Neyland Stadium (Tennessee)
2. Florida Field (Florida)
3. Tiger Stadium (LSU)
4. Sanford Stadium (Georgia)
5. Bryant-Denny Stadium (Alabama)
6. Jordan-Hare Stadium (Auburn)
7. Williams-Brice Stadium (South Carolina)
8. Vaught-Hemingway Stadium (Ole Miss)
9. Razorback Stadium (Arkansas)
10. Scott Field (Mississippi State)
11. Commonwealth Stadium (Kentucky)
12. Vanderbilt Stadium (Vanderbilt)

## Sun Belt

1. Aggie Memorial Stadium (New Mexico State)
2. Martin Stadium (Idaho)
3. Floyd Stadium (Middle Tennessee)
4. Cajun Field (Louisiana-Lafayette)
5. Indian Stadium (Arkansas State)
6. Malone Stadium (Louisiana-Monroe)
7. Fouts Field (North Texas)

## WAC

1. Aloha Stadium (Hawaii)
2. Sun Bowl (UTEP)
3. Bulldog Stadium (Fresno State)
4. Rice Stadium (Rice)
5. Bronco Stadium (Boise State)
6. Gerald J. Ford Stadium (SMU)
7. Mackay Stadium (Nevada)
8. Joe Aillet Stadium (Louisiana Tech)
9. Skelly Stadium (Tulsa)
10. Spartan Stadium (San Jose State)

## FSU coach Bobby Bowden's top stadiums

1. Memorial Stadium (Nebraska)
2. Notre Dame Stadium (Notre Dame)
3. Michigan Stadium (Michigan)
4. Memorial Stadium (Clemson)
5. Florida Field (Gainesville)
6. Ohio Stadium (Ohio State)
7. Tiger Stadium (LSU)
8. Jordan-Hare Stadium (Auburn)
9. Los Angeles Coliseum (Southern California)
10. Orange Bowl (Miami)



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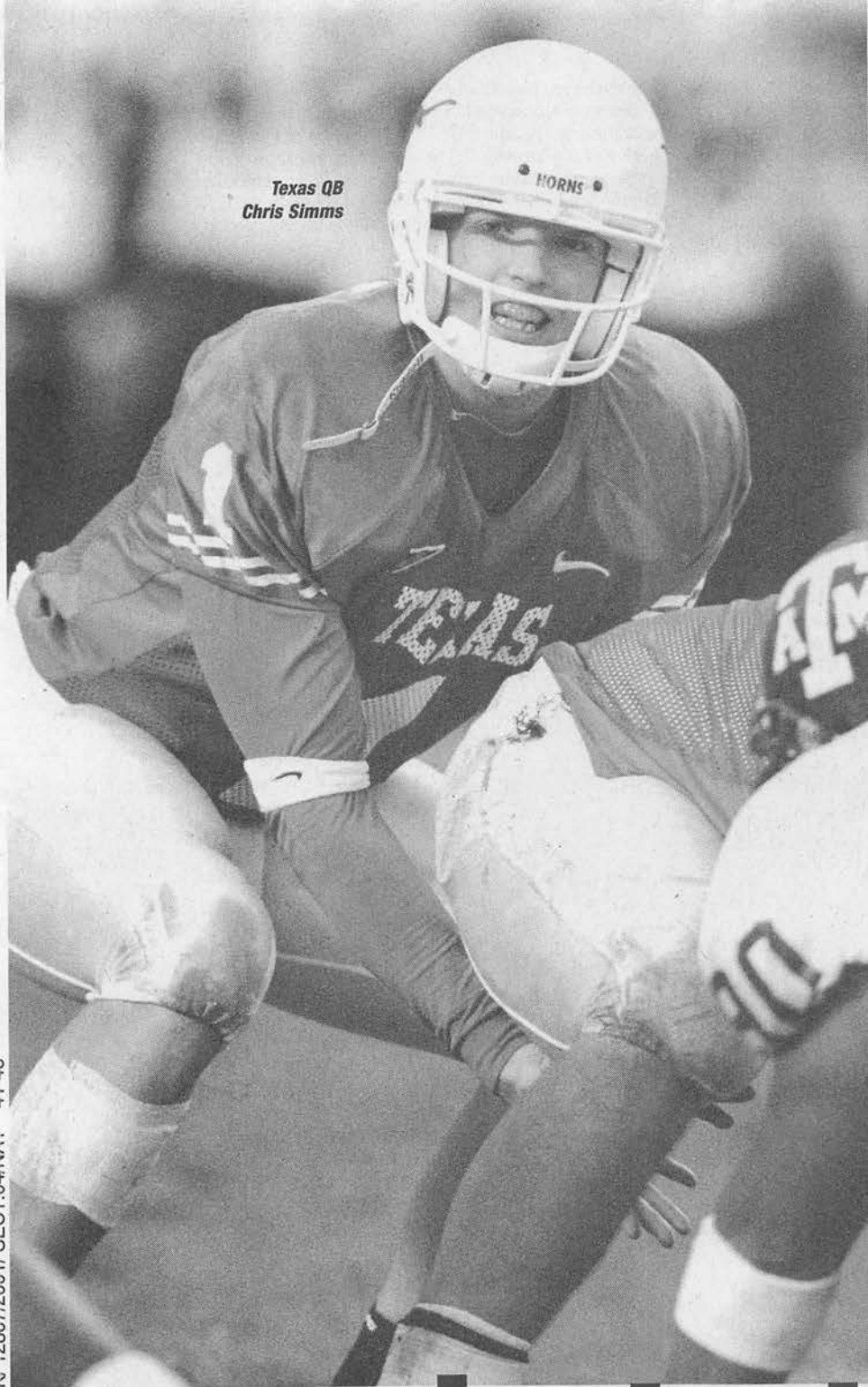
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Texas QB  
Chris Simms



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

# The reluctant favorite

After an undistinguished first two seasons at Texas, quarterback **CHRIS SIMMS** is downplaying Heisman talk, but his all-around ability makes him the front-runner

BY KIRK BOHLS

**T**exas quarterback Chris Simms was stumped.

Asked for his "A" list of favorites for the Heisman Trophy, Simms quickly came up with USC's Carson Palmer.

Then, he came up with Miami's Ken Dorsey. Upon deeper reflection, he added Pittsburgh wide receiver Antonio Bryant. Yeah, he's good, Simms says.

"And Damien Anderson, without question," he says of the Northwestern running back.

What, no Chris Simms?

Nope. Good player, maybe, but too unproven.

"I'd be surprised," Simms says. "A lot of other players have been playing longer and are more deserving than me. I haven't had the kind of success to attain that kind of status. Carson Palmer is a great quarterback who's proven himself. If I was Carson Palmer and heard some guy like me is the Heisman favorite, I would be mad."

Given his track record, he might be more humble than Heisman material, but Simms heads *THE SPORTING NEWS'* list of contenders for college football's most coveted prize.

Never mind that he has started only eight games in his career and finished only three. He is the complete package: size (6-5), arm strength, ability to throw the deep ball, mobility and leadership. Forget that Simms, a junior lefthander, has a 5-3 record in his two seasons at Texas. And that he has been replaced in four games by Major Applewhite. And try to look past those seven interceptions in the regular season, four of which were returned for touchdowns, and another four in the Holiday Bowl, one on a Hail Mary, even though Simms won't.

"I beat myself up," says Simms, who threw for eight touchdowns and 1,064 yards last year. "I strive for perfection, and sometimes that comes back to bite me in the ass. My dad has always told me to live to play another down, to go forward."

His coach, Mack Brown, has enough confidence in Simms to have made him the starter over the talented Applewhite, the co-Big 12 offensive player of the year in 1999 who returns for his senior year but is coming off two serious knee injuries over a 10-month span. Texas is looking for the mobility that Simms offers: the ability to improvise in and outside of the pocket, run for crucial first downs and buy time to find an open receiver.

He has the arm to throw downfield. Seven of his completions last season went for more than 40 yards. Applewhite did throw for 1,100 yards more than Simms in 162 more pass attempts last season. But Applewhite has run for just two first downs in his three-year career and has little escapability in the pocket. Even though Applewhite holds or co-owns 40 school records and boasts a 21-8 record, Simms' pass-efficiency rating (144.3) actually ranked higher than



Applewhite's (135.9) and Heisman runner-up Josh Heupel's (139.2).

Brown has so much faith in him he says he plans to stick with Simms and avoid last year's controversial rotation.

"I think there's a whole lot left in Chris we haven't seen," Brown says. "Chris had to learn to play in front of 84,000 people and on national television and with the label of being the No. 1 high school quarterback in the country. I've really been impressed with both his and Major's toughness."

All that talk of transferring, redshirting or even skipping a senior season and going to the NFL both frustrates and amuses Simms.

"There's no way I would go to the NFL early," he says. "No way.

I haven't even played a full year in college yet."

Simms is accustomed to big talk and high expectations. He played with them at Ramapo (N.J.) High as the son of former NFL quarterback Phil Simms, and they followed him to Austin.

"It comes with the territory," he says. "I can remember in Little League football and baseball where I'd come on the field and hear people yelling, 'There's the Simms kid. Is he any good?' "

He is.

**TSN**

*Kirk Bohls covers the Big 12 for the Austin (Texas) American Statesman.*

# The trophy case

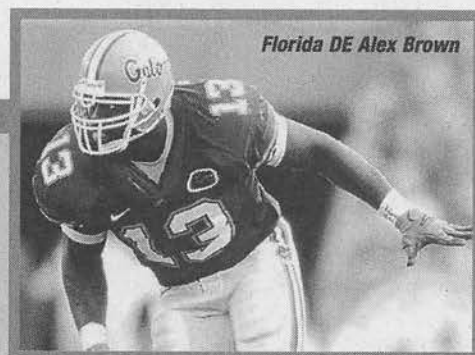
The top candidates for this year's awards

## HEISMAN

1. Chris Simms, QB, Texas
2. Ken Dorsey, QB, Miami
3. Eric Crouch, QB, Nebraska
4. Damien Anderson, RB, Northwestern
5. Ken Simonton, RB, Oregon State
6. George Godsey, QB, Georgia Tech
7. Joey Harrington, QB, Oregon
8. Woodrow Dantzler, QB, Clemson
9. Alex Brown, DE, Florida
10. Lee Suggs, RB, Virginia Tech

## OUTLAND (top interior lineman)

1. John Henderson, DT, Tennessee
2. Mike Pearson, OT, Florida
3. Bryant McKinnie, OT, Miami
4. Larry Tripplett, DT, Washington
5. Brett Williams, OT, Florida State
6. Wendell Bryant, DT, Wisconsin
7. Fred Weary, G, Tennessee
8. Seth McKinney, C, Texas A&M
9. Martin Bibla, G, Miami
10. LeCharles Bentley, C, Ohio State



Florida DE Alex Brown

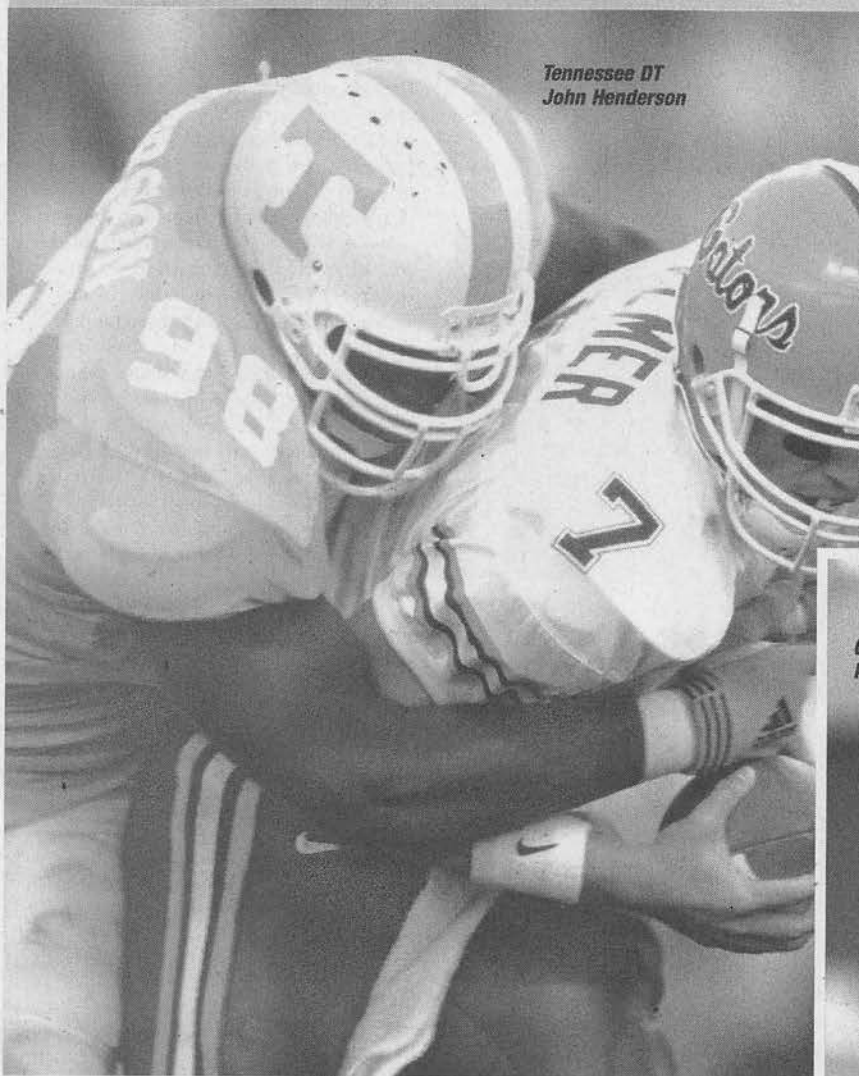
SAM GREENWOOD FOR TSN

## LOMBARDI (top lineman)

1. John Henderson, DT, Tennessee
2. Alex Brown, DE, Florida
3. Mike Pearson, OT, Florida
4. Julius Peppers, DE, North Carolina
5. Larry Tripplett, DT, Washington
6. Bryant McKinnie, OT, Miami
7. Brett Williams, OT, Florida State
8. Kenyon Coleman, DE, UCLA
9. Wendell Bryant, DT, Wisconsin
10. Fred Weary, G, Tennessee

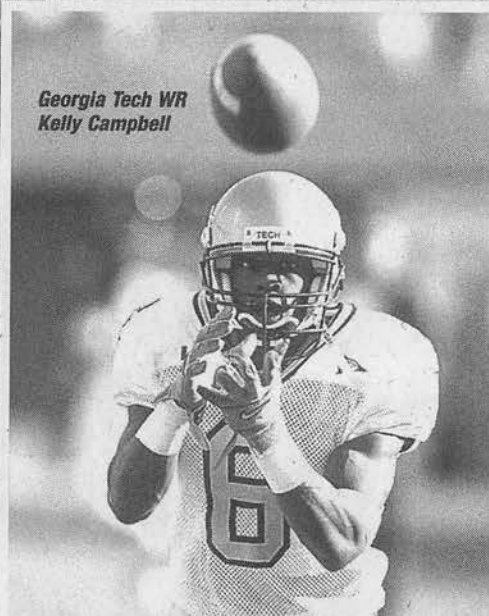
## BILETNIKOFF (top receiver)

1. Antonio Bryant, Pittsburgh
2. Jabar Gaffney, Florida
3. Roy Williams, Texas
4. Kelly Campbell, Georgia Tech
5. Ron Johnson, Minnesota
6. Andre Davis, Virginia Tech
7. Kareem Kelly, USC
8. Bobby Wade, Arizona
9. Josh Reed, LSU
10. Terrence Edwards, Georgia



Tennessee DT  
John Henderson

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN



Georgia Tech WR  
Kelly Campbell

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



### **BUTKUS** (top linebacker)

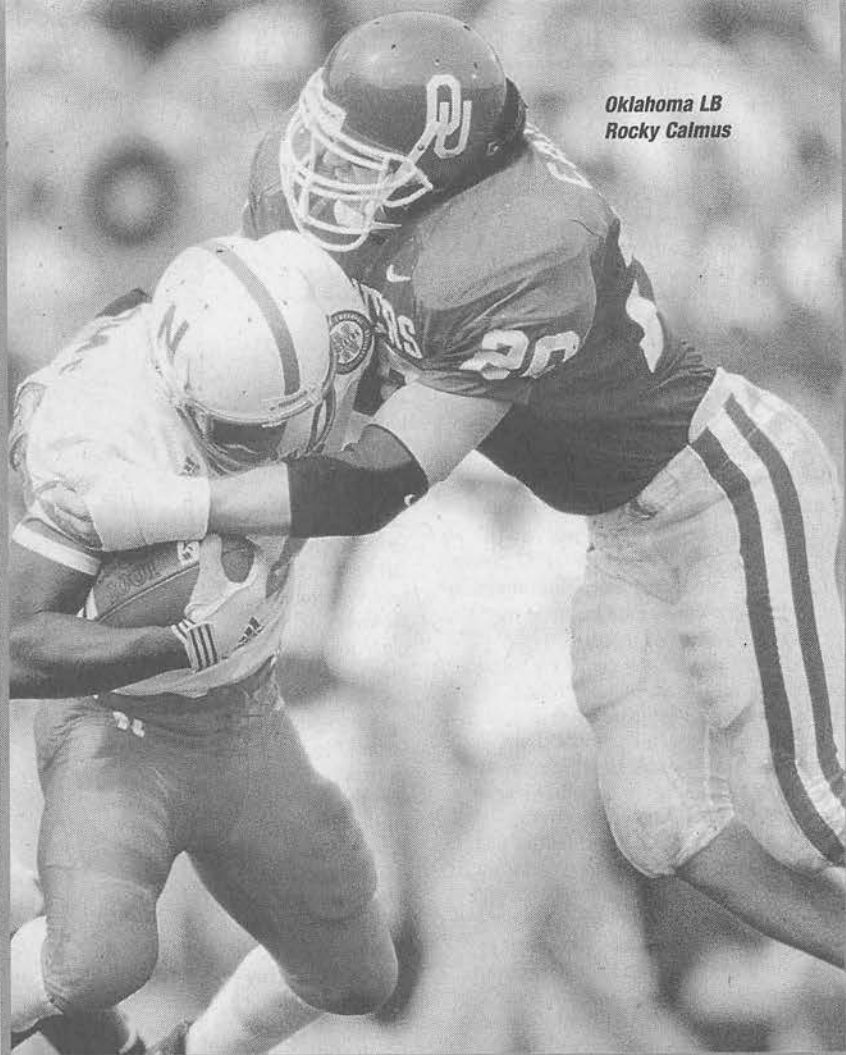
1. Rocky Calmus, Oklahoma
2. Trev Faulk, LSU
3. Mario Haggan, Mississippi State
4. Saleem Rasheed, Alabama
5. Kalimba Edwards, South Carolina
6. Jashon Sykes, Colorado
7. Andra Davis, Florida
8. Lance Briggs, Arizona
9. Robert Thomas, UCLA
10. Boss Bailey, Georgia

### **THORPE** (top defensive back)

1. Quentin Jammer, CB, Texas
2. Mike Doss, SS, Ohio State
3. Lito Sheppard, CB, Florida
4. Chris Hope, FS, Florida State
5. Dennis Weathersby, CB, Oregon State
6. Roy Williams, SS, Oklahoma
7. Edward Reed, SS, Miami
8. Phillip Buchanon, CB, Miami
9. Ryan Clark, FS, LSU
10. Ramon Walker, FS, Pittsburgh

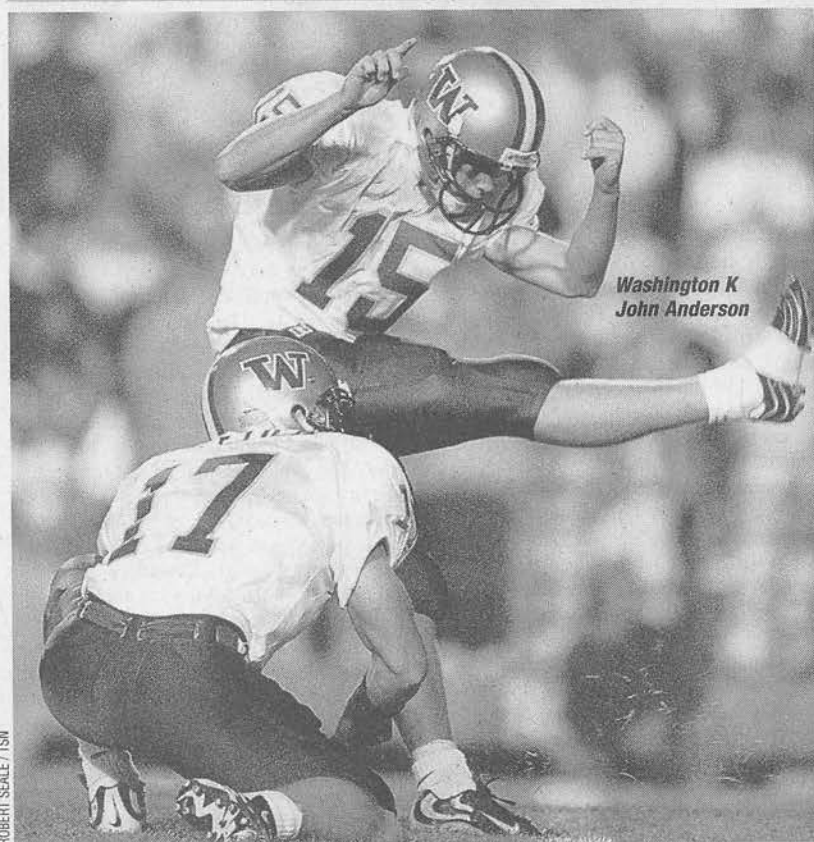
### **GROZA** (top kicker)

1. Jeff Chandler, Florida
2. Alex Walls, Tennessee
3. Tim Duncan, Oklahoma
4. Jonathon Ruffin, Cincinnati
5. John Anderson, Washington
6. Luke Manget, Georgia Tech
7. Carter Warley, Virginia Tech
8. Jeff Reed, North Carolina
9. Ryan Cesca, Oregon State
10. Dan Nystrom, Minnesota

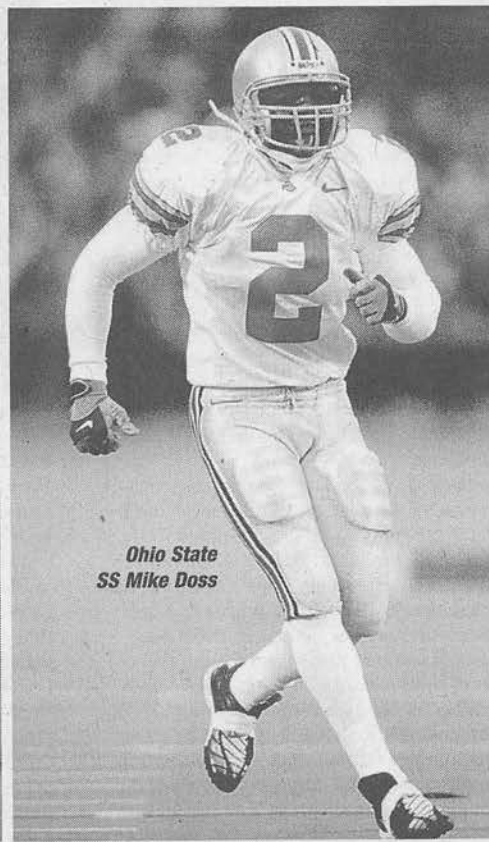


Oklahoma LB  
Rocky Calmus

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN



Washington K  
John Anderson



Ohio State  
SS Mike Doss

PAUL NISELY / TSN

ROBERT SEALE / TSN



# BIG 12

## Look for Texas to take on Nebraska in the biggest of conference title games

By TOM DIENHART

**N**obody does football better than the Big 12.

Since its formation in 1996, the Big 12 has won two national titles. Oklahoma was the consensus champ last year, and Nebraska copped a share of the 1997 crown. Only the SEC can match that achievement in that time span, with Florida claiming the title in 1996 and Tennessee in 1998.

The Big 12 could continue its run of success this season. Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska all have legitimate shots at playing in the Rose Bowl for the national championship. And you know Kansas State always finds a way to be a factor. No other league has as many squads that are so strong.

Even the teams in the lower half of the conference look improved. Last year, Iowa State went to its first bowl since 1978, and Baylor and Texas Tech continue to make strides under bright coaches. New hires at Oklahoma State (Les Miles) and Missouri (Gary Pinkel) offer hope. And you know Gary Barnett eventually will right Colorado's ship. The only school that looks iffy is Kansas.

The Big 12 title game could shape up to be the best matchup in the league's short history, as Texas figures to face off against Nebraska. It would be the first meeting between the two since 1999, but they have a lively recent history. In 1996, the year of the inaugural Big 12 championship game, Texas wrecked the Cornhuskers' bid for a third consecutive national crown.

In 1998, the Longhorns won at Nebraska, making Texas one of just three schools to win in Lincoln since 1988. The others are Washington in 1991 and Colorado in 1990, and each went on to win a share of the national title that year. The Longhorns also beat Nebraska in Austin in 1999 before succumbing to the Huskers in the 1999 Big 12 title game.

**Ascending:** Texas. The Longhorns seemingly have it all, save for proven defensive tackles. But those spots figure to be fortified in short time. It all could add up to the school's first national championship since it netted a share of the title in 1970. The Longhorns were consensus national champs in 1969 but haven't seriously challenged for the crown since 1983. Get used to seeing that "Hook 'em Horns" sign often this fall.

**Descending:** Texas A&M. It won't be a big-time tumble, but the Aggies got hit hard in the offseason. First, three key assistants bolted for NFL jobs: offensive coordinator Steve

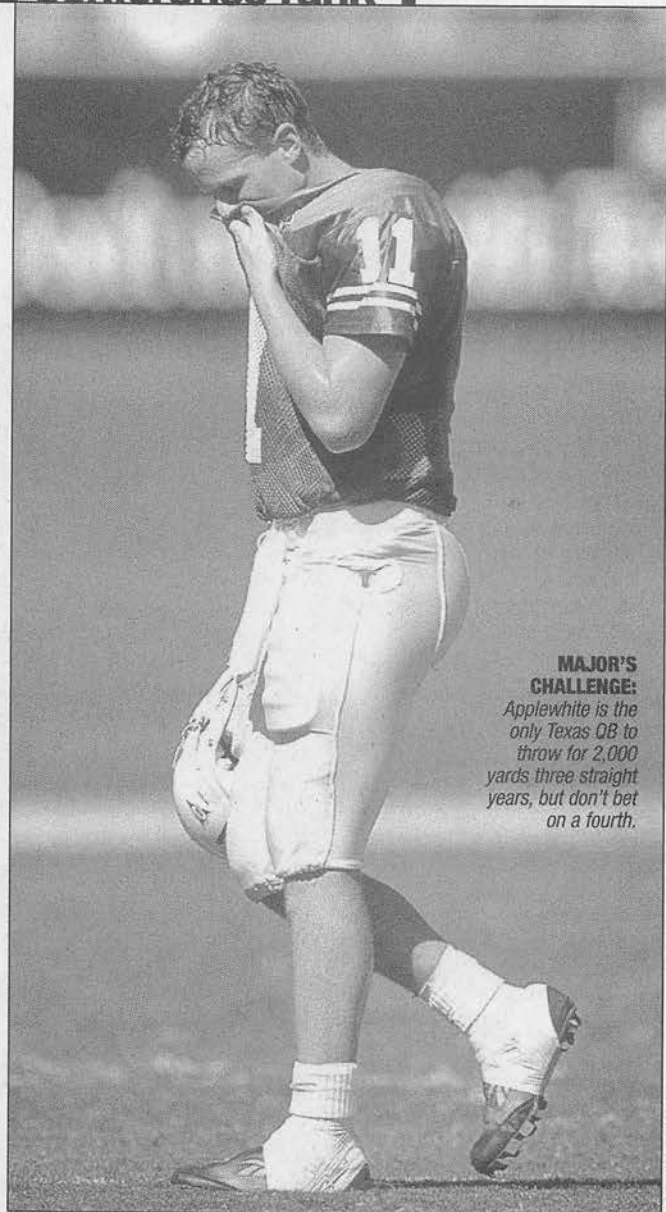
Kragthorpe, assistant head coach/receivers coach Larry Kirksey and running backs coach Pete Hoener. Also, RB Ja'Mar Toombs and WR Robert Ferguson bolted early for the pros. Furthermore, the defense was gutted by the loss of LBs Jason Glenn, Cornelius Anthony and Roylin Bradley and linemen Ron Edwards and Ronald Flemons.

**Dream schedule:** Nebraska. It opens with home games against TCU, Troy State, Notre Dame and Rice. The Big 12 menu features Oklahoma and Kansas State coming to town. Can you say payback? And look closely: There's no Texas or Texas A&M. Just a season-ending trip to Colorado.

**Nightmare schedule:** Kansas is the Land of Oh My Goodness. That's bad news for a program in the throes of a five-season losing skein. The Big 12 slate is particularly tough, with trips to Colorado, Texas Tech, Kansas State and Texas. Plus, Oklahoma and Nebraska come calling. And the non-conference slate includes a visit from UCLA.

**Best matchup:** Texas-Oklahoma. The Red River Shootout, October 6 in the ancient Cotton Bowl, is back like never before as both teams appear to be legit national title contenders. This could be the biggest game of the season nationally. The Longhorns will be motivated by revenge after losing, 63-14, to the Sooners last year.

**Ugliest matchup:** On September 1, Division I-A newcomer Troy State visits Lincoln and would be best advised to assume the fetal position. This feels like one of those vintage Cornhuskers performances that features 70 points, 500 yards rushing and every guy in shoulder pads getting field time. This is a



**MAJOR'S CHALLENGE:** Applewhite is the only Texas QB to throw for 2,000 yards three straight years, but don't bet on a fourth.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

tuneup for Nebraska, which entertains Notre Dame the next week.

**Upset of the year:** Texas Tech over Kansas State, October 13. The Wildcats will be coming off games with Oklahoma and Colorado and awaiting a game against Texas A&M on deck. The last time K-State visited Lubbock was 1997, when it escaped with a 13-2 win. Texas Tech is a tough place to play. Just ask Texas A&M, which has lost its last three times in Lubbock.

**Bowl bound:** Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Kansas State, Texas A&M and Colorado can make holiday plans. The Longhorns have a good chance to play for the national title in the Rose Bowl. Texas Tech and Missouri could sneak in and make a bowl.

**Biggest shoes to fill:** Nate Hybl (HIBB-ul) is stepping in for Josh Heupel (HYPE-ul) as Oklahoma's quarterback. All Heupel did was lead the Sooners to a perfect record and national title and finish as the Heisman runner-up. Hybl, a junior who began his career at Georgia, has more skills than Heupel, but



his success or failure figures to boil down to intangibles, which made Heupel special.

**Most overrated player:** Colorado LB Jashon Sykes. Last season, he played not to get hurt, perhaps thinking he would be ready to head to the pros after his junior season. He even was held out of the starting lineup one game for not giving his all. Although Sykes still made a lot of tackles, the big plays were few and far between. He had 5½ tackles for loss, 3½ sacks, no forced fumbles, one fumble recovery and one interception.

**Most underrated player:** Colorado SS Michael Lewis. He ranked second in the conference last year with 10.7 tackles per game and tied for the league lead with four fumbles forced, but he was only an honorable-mention All-Big 12 selection. It wasn't his fault his cornerback buddies couldn't cover, which led to the Buffs having a horrid pass defense that may have tainted Lewis' image.

**Best coach:** Kansas State's Bill Snyder. He's not media friendly, but that shouldn't affect the way he is judged as a coach. Snyder's ability to sustain a high level of success may be even more impressive than his initial resurrection of what was once the worst program in America. Now, Kansas State is one of just two schools (Florida State is the other) to have won at least 11 games in each of the past four seasons. Anybody coming out of a 10-year coma who hears that might go back into a coma.

**Best staff:** Texas. Money talks, and it attracts quality coaches. The Longhorns have the best staff money can buy, as the assistants are the best paid in the nation. Offensive coordinator Greg Davis and defensive coordinator Carl Reese have few peers. Luring Duane Akina from Arizona, where he helped develop the "Desert Swarm" defense, was a coup. He'll coach the secondary. To top it all off, there isn't a better strength coach than Jeff "Mad Dog" Madden. But with those fat wallets comes fat expectations. It's time to start winning really big in Texas.

**Coach on the hot seat:** Kansas' Terry Allen. He's the ultimate nice guy. Maybe that's the problem. It's four years and counting on Allen's run of sub-500 finishes. Making Allen's collar even tighter is that he has lost each of his encounters against Kansas State,

by an average score of 51-11. A brutal schedule complicates matters for Allen, whose staff returns just two of the nine assistant coaches from last season's 4-7 run.

**Best bets:** Texas QB Major Applewhite will become a forgotten man as Chris Simms continues to emerge. ... Texas and Oklahoma will argue all season about which school has the best Roy Williams. The Longhorns feature star receiver Roy Williams, while the Sooners deploy stellar Roy Williams at strong safety. Maybe Kansas basketball coach Roy Williams can help settle the debate. ... Missouri will win a game it isn't supposed to and lose one it shouldn't. ... Kansas State fans will complain about a lack of respect. And they'll be correct. ... A ticket to the Big 12 title game, to be played in Dallas' Texas Stadium, will be the hardest to get of any conference title game in the nation.

**Odds and ends:** Finally, Kansas State has scheduled a tough non-conference foe. The Wildcats open their season September 1 at Southern California. Things then return to normal, with Louisiana Tech and New Mexico State coming to Manhattan. ... With Nebraska hosting TCU in the Pigskin Classic, the Cornhuskers could play 14 games. Nebraska has 12 regular-season contests scheduled and will play in the conference title game if it wins the Big 12 North. A bowl would follow. The Cornhuskers have played 13 or more games five times in the past seven seasons. ... Oklahoma enters the season with a 13-game winning streak that is the longest in Division I-A. Baylor has lost eight in a row. Duke has lost 12 straight, dating to 1999. ... With Iowa State ending its 22-year bowl drought, Baylor has the longest bowl-less streak in the Big 12. The Bears' last post-season trip was the 1994 Alamo Bowl. ... Nebraska may have signed the recruit with the most interesting background. Seppo Ewvaraye is a native of Finland who came to the United States as an exchange student in 1999. A 6-5, 325-pound defensive lineman, he played one year of club football in Finland before playing the last two at Laurel-Concord High in Laurel, Neb. Ewvaraye is the first native of Finland to sign a letter of intent with a Division I school.

## ALL-LEAGUE

FIRST TEAM				Offense		
Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.		
WR	Roy Williams, Texas	6-5	210	So.		
WR	Aaron Lockett, Kansas State	5-7	165	Sr.		
TE	Tracey Wistrom, Nebraska	6-5	230	Sr.		
T	Frank Romero, Oklahoma	6-4	286	Sr.		
T	Mike Williams, Texas	6-6	339	Sr.		
G	Toni Fonoti, Nebraska	6-4	335	Jr.		
G	Andre Gurode, Colorado	6-4	320	Sr.		
C	Seth McKinney, Texas A&M	6-3	290	Sr.		
QB	Chris Simms, Texas	6-5	222	Jr.		
RB	Ennis Haywood, Iowa State	5-11	218	Sr.		
RB	Quentin Griffin, Oklahoma	5-6	187	Jr.		

### Defense

E	Cory Redding, Texas	6-5	260	Jr.
E	Chris Kelsay, Nebraska	6-5	255	Jr.
T	Jeremy Slichta, Nebraska	6-6	285	Sr.
LB	Rocky Calmus, Oklahoma	6-3	234	Sr.
LB	Ben Leber, Kansas State	6-4	250	Sr.
LB	Jashon Sykes, Colorado	6-3	230	Sr.
LB	Lawrence Flugence, Texas Tech	6-1	221	Jr.
CB	Quentin Jammer, Texas	6-1	198	Sr.
CB	Derrick Strait, Oklahoma	5-11	194	So.
S	Roy Williams, Oklahoma	6-0	221	Jr.
S	Kevin Curtis, Texas Tech	6-3	209	Sr.

### Specialists

K	Tim Duncan, Oklahoma	6-2	198	Sr.
P	Jeff Ferguson, Oklahoma	5-10	190	Sr.
KR	Aaron Lockett, Kansas State	5-7	165	Sr.

### Players of the year

Offense: Chris Simms, QB, Texas

Defense: Roy Williams, S, Oklahoma

SECOND TEAM				Offense		
Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.		
WR	Andre Woolfolk, Oklahoma	6-1	175	Jr.		
WR	B.J. Johnson, Texas	6-1	190	So.		
TE	Daniel Graham, Colorado	6-3	245	Sr.		
T	Dave Volk, Nebraska	6-5	290	Sr.		
T	Victor Rogers, Colorado	6-7	320	Sr.		
G	Mike Hayes, Missouri	6-3	308	Sr.		
G	Antwan Kirk-Hughes, Texas	6-3	210	Sr.		
C	A.J. Ricker, Missouri	6-5	287	So.		
QB	Eric Crouch, Nebraska	6-1	200	Sr.		
RB	Marcus Houston, Colorado	6-2	205	Fr.		
RB	Josh Scobey, Kansas State	6-0	205	Sr.		

### Defense

E	Corey Heinecke, Oklahoma	6-1	242	Sr.
E	Kalen Thornton, Texas	6-3	270	So.
T	Justin Bannan, Colorado	6-3	295	Sr.
LB	Marcus Rogers, Kansas	6-1	235	Sr.
LB	Dwayne Levels, Oklahoma State	6-2	250	Sr.
LB	D.D. Lewis, Texas	6-1	245	Sr.
LB	Randy Stella, Nebraska	6-0	200	Sr.
CB	Sammy Davis, Texas A&M	6-0	180	Jr.
CB	Keyuo Craver, Nebraska	5-10	190	Sr.
S	Michael Lewis, Colorado	6-1	210	Sr.
S	Jon McGraw, Kansas State	6-3	200	Sr.

### Specialists

K	Josh Brown, Nebraska	6-2	190	Jr.
P	Adam Stiles, Baylor	6-5	236	Sr.
KR	Victor Ike, Texas	5-11	195	Jr.

### Newcomers of the year

Offense: Marc Dunn, QB, Kansas State

Defense: Juan Prishker, T, Oklahoma

## UNIT RANKINGS

	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall		
BAYLOR	10	7	11	11	12	12	10	12	8	11
COLORADO	3	5	2	3	5	5	6	5	6	3
IOWA STATE	8	10	10	10	11	11	8	11	12	8
KANSAS	12	3	12	9	10	10	9	10	11	10
KANSAS STATE	6	4	8	5	4	4	5	4	4	1
MISSOURI	9	8	5	8	9	6	12	9	9	7
NEBRASKA	1	11	3	4	3	2	2	3	2	4
OKLAHOMA	4	1	4	2	1	3	1	1	1	2
OKLAHOMA ST.	11	12	9	12	8	9	7	7	10	12
TEXAS	2	2	1	1	2	1	3	2	3	6
TEXAS A&M	5	9	6	6	6	7	4	6	5	5
TEXAS TECH	7	6	7	7	7	8	11	8	7	9



# PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

## Offense

## Chris Simms, QB, Texas

After two seasons of mostly intermittent play and more interceptions than he could count, Chris Simms claimed the job of starting quarterback at Texas. However, winning the hearts of Longhorns fans is another story.

The 6-5, 222-pound junior was inundated with so many ugly messages from those backing Major Applewhite for the position that he took his e-mail address off the school's website last season. He got heckled on the road, roasted on talk radio and knocked for riding the coattails of his famous father, Phil Simms.

One day last spring, he returned to his Cadillac Escalade parked outside the Jester Center dormitory to find a personal note affixed to his windshield wiper. It read, "You're a (horrible) football player."

"I wish I could catch that guy just one day," vows Simms, who saw seven of his 84 completions last season go for 40 or more yards.

While some don't consider him the best quarterback on his own campus, Simms looks poised for a big season that should include a run at the Heisman Trophy.

"My confidence is as a veteran," says Simms, who has excellent vision and moves well in the pocket for his size. "I like to prove people wrong."

Simms threw seven interceptions but made so much improvement he was applauded when he threw away a pass early against Texas A&M, the same game in which he completed all eight passes in the third quarter en route to throwing for 383 yards. Despite four picks in the Holiday Bowl loss to Oregon, he had three potential game-tying touchdown passes dropped.

"It's been a learning experience," he says. "I read where Peyton Manning threw 25 touchdowns and 24 interceptions his rookie year. And I know how Brett Favre struggled early. I know what I'm doing now." —Kirk Bohls

## Defense

## Roy Williams, SS, Oklahoma

Oklahoma's Roy Williams made 93 tackles last season. Ordinarily, that would be about 50 too many on a championship-caliber defense. But Williams is no ordinary defensive back.

The junior from Union City, Calif., is as much wrecking ball as strong safety, and he certainly did as much as anyone to wreck Florida State's national championship plans in an Orange Bowl performance that was a Sooners shutout everywhere but the scoreboard. It was his fumble recovery that led to the game's only touchdown.

Williams and his teammates settled for the 13-2 final score that completed Oklahoma's perfect season and the school's first national championship since 1955. The only points the Seminoles scored came in the form of a gift safety from Oklahoma's punter. Of course, the Sooners held all but three opponents to 16 or fewer points and figure to be just as dominant in 2001 with the help of Williams, who will be part of one of the nation's top secondaries.

"This whole defense," he says, "is about 11 people flying to the ball and getting in position to knock some heads."

Williams has become the Sooners' chief head-knocker. Most defensive coordinators would prefer their safeties not be among their team leaders in tackles—Williams' 93 were second to All-American linebacker Rocky Calmus—but the 6-0, 221-pound junior is a virtual linebacker and may be the most physical tackler in the league. His 3½ sacks vouch for his versatility, as he has a good burst as a pass rusher.

"Roy's a big-time player," says defensive coordinator Mike Stoops. "He's a tremendous tackler and a very, very reckless player with great quickness and great closing speed." —K.B.



ROBERT SEALE / TSN



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

# 2000 INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

## RUSHING returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Ennis Haywood, Iowa State, Jr.	10	230	1,237	5.4	8	123.7
2. Dan Alexander, Nebraska, Sr.	11	182	1,154	6.3	8	104.9
3. Hodges Mitchell, Texas, Sr.	11	224	1,118	5.0	8	101.6
4. Reggie White, Oklahoma State, Jr.	11	210	1,049	5.0	4	95.4
5. Eric Crouch, Nebraska, Jr.	11	169	971	5.6	20	88.3
6. Quentin Griffin, Oklahoma, So.	12	189	783	4.1	16	65.3
7. Correll Buckhalter, Nebraska, Sr.	11	106	750	7.1	7	68.2
8. Josh Scobey, Kansas State, Jr.	13	169	718	4.3	16	55.2
9. David Winbush, Kansas, Sr.	11	163	701	4.3	5	63.7
10. Zain Gilmore, Missouri, Jr.	11	139	632	4.6	7	57.5

## PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Rating
1. Kliff Kingsbury, Texas Tech, So. 12	584	361	.618	17	3,412	5.8	21	116.9	
2. Josh Heupel, Oklahoma, Sr.	12	433	280	.647	14	3,392	7.8	20	139.2
3. Jonathan Beasley, Kansas St., Sr.	13	313	156	.498	10	2,636	8.4	17	132.1
4. Mark Farris, Texas A&M, So.	11	347	208	.600	9	2,551	7.4	10	126.0
5. Sage Rosenfels, Iowa State, Sr.	11	332	171	.515	12	2,300	6.9	8	110.4
6. Major Applewhite, Texas, Jr.	9	279	152	.545	7	2,164	7.8	18	135.9
7. Dylon Smith, Kansas, Sr.	11	306	140	.458	11	1,963	6.4	10	103.2
8. Aso Pogi, Oklahoma State, So.	11	247	139	.563	11	1,550	6.3	6	108.1
9. Darius Outlaw, Missouri, Jr.	10	225	105	.467	16	1,391	6.2	9	97.6
10. Eric Crouch, Nebraska, Jr.	11	156	75	.481	7	1,101	7.1	11	121.7

## RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Quincy Morgan, Kansas State, Sr.	13	64	1,166	14	4.9	18.2
2. Robert Ferguson, Texas A&M, Jr.	10	58	885	6	5.8	15.3
3. Roy Williams, Texas, Fr.	10	40	809	8	4.0	20.2
4. J.J. Moses, Iowa State, Sr.	11	52	777	4	4.7	14.9
5. Tim Baker, Texas Tech, Sr.	12	68	759	7	5.7	11.2
6. Justin Gage, Missouri, Jr.	11	44	709	4	4.0	16.1
7. Javon Green, Colorado, Sr.	11	48	699	4	4.4	14.6
8. B.J. Johnson, Texas, Fr.	11	41	698	3	3.7	17.0
9. Reggie Newhouse, Baylor, So.	11	40	629	4	3.6	15.7
10. Antwone Savage, Oklahoma, So.	12	48	598	2	4.0	12.5

# TEAM STATISTICS

## OFFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Nebraska (1)	349.3	1. Texas Tech (11)	295.7	1. Nebraska (6)	459.9
2. Iowa State (17)	208.0	2. Oklahoma (13)	294.7	2. Texas (14)	438.6
3. Kansas State (22)	198.1	3. Texas (14)	293.2	3. Oklahoma (18)	429.3
4. Oklahoma State (42)	161.5	4. Colorado (32)	240.0	4. Iowa State (21)	423.6
5. Kansas (46)	157.4	5. Texas A&M (35)	235.3	5. Kansas State (33)	410.0
6. Missouri (49)	154.2	6. Iowa State (54)	215.6	6. Texas A&M (49)	381.6
7. Texas A&M (59)	146.4	7. Kansas State (58)	211.9	7. Texas Tech (65)	362.6
8. Texas (60)	145.5	8. Oklahoma State (70)	198.5	8. Colorado (66)	362.0
9. Oklahoma (68)	134.6	9. Missouri (72)	196.8	9. Oklahoma State (67)	360.0
10. Colorado (82)	122.0	10. Kansas (82)	183.9	10. Missouri (71)	351.0
11. Baylor (110)	72.9	11. Baylor (106)	148.9	11. Kansas (77)	341.3
12. Texas Tech (113)	66.9	12. Nebraska (111)	110.6	12. Baylor (114)	221.8

## DEFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Texas (11)	94.0	1. Texas Tech (6)	164.1	1. Kansas State (4)	270.5
2. Kansas State (14)	98.2	2. Oklahoma (9)	170.8	2. Texas (7)	278.3
3. Texas A&M (22)	106.3	3. Kansas State (10)	172.4	3. Oklahoma (8)	278.9
4. Oklahoma (23)	108.2	4. Texas (17)	184.3	4. Texas Tech (24)	320.7
5. Nebraska (27)	113.5	5. Kansas (37)	202.6	5. Texas A&M (25)	321.6
6. Oklahoma State (34)	126.0	6. Missouri (47)	207.9	6. Nebraska (26)	321.8
7. Texas Tech (67)	156.6	7. Nebraska (50)	208.3	7. Missouri (60)	366.9
8. Missouri (68)	159.0	8. Iowa State (51)	209.8	8. Oklahoma State (68)	379.0
9. Colorado (78)	175.1	9. Texas A&M (59)	215.4	9. Kansas (80)	400.6
10. Iowa State (95)	196.3	10. Baylor (88)	232.4	10. Iowa State (88)	406.1
11. Kansas (98)	198.0	11. Colorado (104)	247.0	11. Colorado (99)	422.1
12. Baylor (102)	209.0	12. Oklahoma State (105)	253.0	12. Baylor (109)	441.4

Statistics do not include bowl games



# 1 Nebraska

**National Rank**  
**9**

**Coach:** Frank Solich (31-7, 3 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Frank Solich  
**Defensive coordinator:** Craig Bohl (2nd season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Option  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 10  
**Lettermen lost:** 30  
**Lettermen returning:** 59  
**Site:** Lincoln, Neb.  
**Stadium:** Memorial (turf, 74,031)  
**Last league title won:** 1999 (tie)  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1968  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 1  
**2000 record:** 10-2 (beat Northwestern in Alamo Bowl); Big 12 North: 6-2/T1st  
**Website:** www.huskers.com

## 2000 Results

San Jose State, W, 49-14  
at Notre Dame, W, 27-24 (OT)  
Iowa, W, 42-13  
Missouri, W, 42-24  
at Iowa State, W, 49-27  
at Texas Tech, W, 56-3  
Baylor, W, 59-0  
at Oklahoma, L, 31-14  
Kansas, W, 56-17  
at Kansas State, L, 29-28  
Colorado, W, 34-32  
Northwestern, W, 66-17

## Schedule

A25—Texas Christian  
S1—Troy State  
S8—Notre Dame  
S15—Rice  
S29—at Missouri  
O6—Iowa State  
O13—at Baylor  
O20—Texas Tech  
O27—Oklahoma  
N3—at Kansas  
N10—Kansas State  
N23—at Colorado

## Game of the year

**Nov. 23—at Colorado**  
The Huskers added TCU to the schedule for the extra home revenue, and it will be interesting to see if the Huskers wear down by late November. It seems to be a perfectly scripted schedule: three big home games, with time to prepare for each, leading to the toughest game of the year, at Colorado. Beating the Buffs could lead to smelling Roses.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The key will be the defense fulfilling its potential while the offense breaks in several new starters on the line for QB Eric Crouch.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★★★  
**Receivers:** ★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★★★★  
**Secondary:** ★★★★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Wilson Thomas	6-5	205	Jr.
	Kelly Cook	6-1	185	So.
T	Dave Volk	6-5	290	Sr.
	Scott Koethe	6-5	325	Jr.
G	Toniú Fonoti	6-4	335	Jr.
	John Garrison	6-4	285	Jr.
C	Jon Rutherford	6-3	300	Sr.
	Matt Shook	6-2	290	Jr.
G	Wes Cody	6-2	300	Sr.
	Jon Dawson	6-2	285	So.
T	Chris Loos	6-3	310	So.
	Dan Waldrop	6-5	320	So.
TE	Tracey Wistrom	6-5	230	Sr.
	Aaron Golliday	6-4	285	Jr.
WB	Troy Hassebroek	6-4	220	Jr.
	Ben Cornelison	5-10	190	Jr.
QB	Eric Crouch	6-1	200	Sr.
	Jammal Lord	6-2	210	So.
IB	Dahrran Diedrick	6-0	220	Jr.
	DeAntae Grixby	5-8	200	So.
FB	Judd Davies	6-0	240	So.
	Paul Kastl	5-10	230	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Chris Kelsay	6-5	255	Jr.
	Justin Smith	6-4	255	Jr.
T	Jason Lohr	6-2	275	Sr.
	Jon Clanton	6-2	275	Jr.
T	Jeremy Slechta	6-6	285	Sr.
	Casey Nelson	6-2	285	Sr.
E	Demoine Adams	6-2	235	Jr.
	J.P. Wichmann	6-4	230	Sr.
OLB	Scott Shanle	6-2	230	Jr.
	T.J. Hollowell	6-0	215	So.
MLB	Jamie Burrow	6-1	225	Sr.
	Tony Tata	6-1	245	Jr.
OLB	Randy Stella	6-0	200	Sr.
	Mark Vedral	6-1	205	Sr.
CB	Keyuo Craver	5-10	190	Sr.
	Pat Ricketts	5-11	180	So.
SS	Aaron Terpening	5-11	185	Jr.
	Wes Woodward	5-8	185	Sr.
FS	Dion Booker	6-1	205	Sr.
	Willie Amos	6-0	185	So.
CB	Erwin Swiney	6-0	185	Sr.
	DeJuan Groce	5-10	190	Jr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Josh Brown	6-2	190	Jr.
P	Kyle Larson	6-0	200	So.

*Returning starters in bold*

**Offensive philosophy:** The Huskers led the nation in rushing again last season, and they return the top running quarterback in the country, Eric Crouch. So get ready for more scorched earth. But coach Frank Solich made it known in the spring he wants to make his offense more versatile. Nebraska was extremely one-dimensional last year—especially in its biggest games—and Solich knows one of the reasons was the team's 48.8 percent completion rate. If anything, there may be subtle changes. Solich wants to throw "better," not necessarily more. But with Crouch coming off shoulder surgery in the winter and a flock of new receivers, any changes may have to wait.

**Offensive stars:** Can an option quarterback win the Heisman? Not without a true I-back by his side. Crouch established himself as one of the school's all-time greats last year, but what was also obvious is that he needs help. Crouch needs a big-time I-back with speed at the corner to make his option skills pay dividends. Turner Gill (Mike Rozier), Tommie Frazier (Lawrence Phillips) and Scott Frost (Ahman Green) all had a partner: Will Crouch finally get one for his senior year? Junior Dahrran Diedrick, a fleet runner from Canada who isn't afraid to mix it up inside, may be the one. He rushed for 212 yards and three touchdowns as a backup last year. Senior TE Tracey Wistrom (19 catches, five touchdowns) will be Crouch's go-to guy, and there are two capable blocking tight ends in juniors Aaron Golliday and Jon Bowling, so don't be surprised if Solich moves Wistrom around. Junior LG Toniú Fonoti, a 6-4, 335-pound mauler from Honolulu, will emerge as NU's dominant line-man now that center Dominic Raiola is gone.

**Defensive concerns:** There are many questions, perhaps too many for a team billing itself as a Rose Bowl contender. Can Diedrick be a threat? And if he can't, can sophomore DeAntae Grixby or junior Thunder Collins, each an unproven burner, do it? Nebraska coaches and fans waited for a year for Collins to break through, but he never really picked up the offense. That led to a loss of confidence and scared running—something you can't have when your bread and butter is running right at the other guy. Can sophomore FB Judd Davies, who missed the spring with a bad back, be effective? The fullback is a key and underrated aspect of the option offense, and the Huskers must get consistent play from the position. Is there a receiver in the house? Nebraska's leading returning receiver among its wideouts, Wilson Thomas, has one career catch. That's right, one. Just how bad is the rest of the situation at receiver? It's such a gray area that Josh Brown, the team's kicker, is trying out. Perhaps the biggest concern, amazingly, is the offensive line. All those years and all that security have come to this: Big Red has Big Issues up front. The early departure of Raiola not only left an Outland-sized hole in the middle, it forced backup utility lineman Jon Rutherford to move from guard to center. But as Rutherford missed spring drills recuping an injury, it was unclear whether he would start the fall at center or guard. The line will have a new center and right side. It is critical that the line develop some sort of chemistry early on. Without it, Diedrick will lose confidence and Crouch will get beat up. The Huskers can't afford to have Crouch as the No. 1 option in the running game if Solich's desire to throw more is sincere. In other words, the line had better ease the transition for Diedrick so Crouch doesn't feel like the offense must revolve around his arm and legs (like last season).

**Defensive philosophy:** The Huskers will continue using the attacking 4-3 defense, leaving the corners in man coverage and getting pressure from the edge and inside with blitzing linebackers. At some point, though, Nebraska needs to find a better plan for zone coverage in big games. Teams hurt Oklahoma last year with zone coverages, but the Huskers looked lost in last year's game playing zone against the Sooners' pass-happy offense.

**Defensive stars:** Senior linemen Jason Lohr and Jeremy Slechta appear primed to step up and help NU regain the push it lacked last year. Junior DEs Demoine Adams and Chris Kelsay, who shared time opposite Kyle Vanden Bosch last year, will now both be asked to step into Vanden Bosch's huge playmaking shoes. Seniors CB Keyuo Craver and FS Dion Booker will solidify a secondary that has struggled recently.

**Defensive concerns:** A few things were alarmingly evident about the Blackshirts a year ago: the defense lacked a pass rush, speed and consistent playmakers at "Will" linebacker and rover. Those concerns weren't eased in the spring when senior "Will" LB Randy Stella, the best athlete on the team, was suspended from spring practice for violating an undisclosed team rule. Solich said Stella could return for the fall. Senior Mark

BIG 12





**NOTHING NEW:**  
With a soft schedule  
and players such as  
Wistrom, Nebraska is  
a Big 12 team to  
beat—again.

Vedral, who played in 10 games last season (23 tackles), is an able replacement, but if Stella doesn't return, the Huskers will miss his speed, particularly on the blitz. And it will put more pressure on unproven senior Jamie Burrow, who must fill the shoes of Carlos Polk at middle linebacker. There are several candidates to fill the rover position, but all are inexperienced, and one, Josh Davis, moved over from wingback.

**Special teams:** The good news is that junior K Josh Brown, who gained confidence from a game-winning field goal against Colorado, is back. But the team will have a brand-new punter in sophomore Kyle Larson, and it lost its top two punt returners and perhaps its top kick returner if Stella isn't back. Not exactly good news for a program that used to make a living off of special teams but has slipped drastically in recent years. The Notre Dame game last year ring a bell?

**Coaching staff:** Nothing new about this coaching staff; it has been together so long it runs on autopilot. What was different last year was the sudden scrutiny of

breath. Solich seems to find his way more and more each year, and as he enters his fourth season, he's getting that head-coaching aura and, more important, respect. Unlike the philosophy in the Tom Osborne era, Solich suspended Vedral last season until a court case was cleared up. Solich disciplined both Stella and Collins in the spring. He's not afraid to send a message to stay in line, even at the expense of possibly losing key players.

**Bottom line:** There are always high expectations in Nebraska—it's state policy—and this year is no different. When you have eight home games, including Notre Dame, Oklahoma and K-State, and a great senior quarterback, it's natural to have rosy dreams. But beware. This team has a lot of holes to fill. Sure, the Huskers rebuild the way Home Depot rebuilds. Don't they always find someone bigger, faster or stronger to step up? This year, there are so many question marks: on offense, I-back, fullback, receivers and three offensive linemen; on defense, no dominant rush end, no proven playmaker at linebacker or rover. A ton of things will have to come together, and all at once, to take advantage of Crouch's senior year and this home schedule. That's where the schedule comes in. Solich has to hope that the emotional lift of three big games before 76,000 of the Huskers' closest friends can accelerate the growth process and make some quick chemistry for a national title run. Still, it's a long road. Can a virtually young team handle the strain of a potential 14-game season? The Huskers may be salty by Thanksgiving, and they had better be: A trip to Boulder, where the Buffs are starving for a win over Nebraska after back-to-back heartbreakers, and a match against Texas or OU in the Big 12 game in Dallas will be massive tasks. Nebraska may have enough talent and the right schedule to win the North. The road to the Rose Bowl may be a little too thorny.

## TSNumber

# +2

The team's turnover margin last season. The Huskers had 17 giveaways and came up with 19 takeaways. The

Blackshirts will need to force more than that to ease the transition of an offense that is breaking in three new linemen while also searching for answers at I-back and at receiver. The defense looks like it has some playmakers at cornerback and along the line.

Solich's play-calling. Lots of Huskers fans, especially after the losses to OU and K-State, are wondering aloud if and when Solich will make quarterbacks coach Turner Gill offensive coordinator. Don't hold your



# 2 Kansas State

**National Rank**  
**15**

**Coach:** Bill Snyder (99-43-1, 12 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Ron Hudson (5th season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Phil Bennett (3rd season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Pro set  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 15  
**Lettermen lost:** 27  
**Lettermen returning:** 39  
**Site:** Manhattan, Kan.  
**Stadium:** Wagner Field (artificial turf, 50,000)  
**Last league title won:** 1934 (Big Eight)  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1992  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 5  
**2000 record:** 11-3 (beat Tennessee in Cotton Bowl); Big 12 North: 6-2/T1st  
**Website:**  
www.k-statesports.com

## 2000 Results

Iowa, W, 27-7  
Louisiana Tech, W, 54-10  
Ball State, W, 76-0  
North Texas, W, 55-10  
at Colorado, W, 44-21  
at Kansas, W, 52-13  
Oklahoma, L, 41-31  
Texas Tech, W, 28-23  
at Texas A&M, L, 26-10  
Iowa State, W, 56-10  
Nebraska, W, 29-28  
at Missouri, W, 28-24  
Oklahoma, L, 27-24  
Tennessee, W, 35-21

## Schedule

S8—at Southern California  
S15—Louisiana Tech  
S22—New Mexico State  
S29—at Oklahoma

## 06—Colorado

O13—at Texas Tech  
O20—Texas A&M  
O27—Kansas  
N3—at Iowa State  
N10—at Nebraska  
N17—Missouri

## Game of the year

### Oct. 6—Colorado

Kansas State plans everything around the Nebraska game these days. But the Colorado game, coming off a trip to Oklahoma, might be the toughest of the year. The Buffs are talented at the skill positions and have enough speed to give K-State problems. The 'Cats have surpassed Colorado's program and need to keep that edge.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

A strong defense is a good starting point. You know a quarterback will emerge. Expect the attack to be simple early in the season.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★  
**Receivers:** ★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★  
**Secondary:** ★★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Brandon Clark	6-3	220	Sr.
	Chris Devore	6-2	200	Sr.
T	Matt Martin	6-5	270	Sr.
	Oshin Honarchian	6-5	290	Sr.
G	<b>Andy Eby</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Chris Boggas	6-5	315	Fr.
C	Nick Leckey	6-4	285	So.
	Steve Washington	6-4	315	Jr.
G	<b>John Robertson</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Ben Rettele	6-7	282	So.
T	<b>Thomas Barnett</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Billy Miller	6-6	275	Sr.
TE	Nick Warren	6-7	255	Sr.
	Thomas Hill	6-5	256	So.
WR	<b>Aaron Lockett</b>	<b>5-7</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Ricky Lloyd	5-10	160	Sr.
QB	Ell Roberson	6-0	190	So.
	Marc Dunn	6-5	205	Jr.
RB	<b>Josh Scobey</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Danny Morris	5-11	200	So.
FB	<b>Roderick Cartwright</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Nick Hoheisel	6-1	230	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Thomas Houchin	6-3	235	So.
	Alax Carrier	6-4	230	Fr.
T	Jerry Togiai	6-4	295	Sr.
	Justin Montgomery	6-1	275	So.
NT	Eric Everley	6-6	322	Sr.
	Cory Hoffman	6-5	275	Jr.
E	Melvin Williams	6-3	250	Jr.
	Andrew Shull	6-5	245	So.
LB	<b>Ben Leber</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Andy Klocke	6-2	220	Jr.
LB	<b>Terry Pierce</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Bryan Hickman	6-3	220	So.
LB	Warren Lott	6-3	230	Sr.
	Josh Buhl	6-0	200	So.
CB	DeRon Tyler	5-8	170	Sr.
	DeMarcus Faggins	5-11	175	Sr.
SS	Milton Proctor	6-0	200	Jr.
	Alan Walker	6-2	175	So.
FS	<b>Jon McGraw</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Derrick Yates	6-2	185	Sr.
CB	Terence Newman	5-11	170	Jr.
	James Dunnigan	5-7	180	Jr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Jared Brite	6-2	185	So.
P	<b>Travis Brown</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

*Returning starters in bold*

**Offensive philosophy:** The Wildcats use a pro set, out of which they will run anything from the option to a downfield pass. Which direction coach Bill Snyder goes this year will depend on which quarterback he selects: the mobile Ell Roberson, who is suited to the option, or junior college transfer Marc Dunn, a big player with dropback skills. The Wildcats have the personnel to pull off either style.

**Offensive stars:** K-State has one of the deepest, and most intriguing, situations around at quarterback. The favorite is Roberson, a gifted sophomore whom fans have been pining for because his option skills and dangerous moves remind them of former QB Michael Bishop. Snyder defused a possible quarterback controversy a year ago when he stuck with Jonathan Beasley after Roberson had early success as a backup. Some around the program said Roberson regressed toward the end of last season, in part because of his lack of playing time. Snyder then brought in Dunn, the National Junior College Association offensive player of the year at Ricks (Idaho) College, perhaps as insurance in case Roberson didn't develop, or to motivate Roberson. Roberson went into the weight room last winter and bulked up considerably. He and Dunn battled in the spring and should battle into the fall. Snyder has used a running-back-by-committee approach in recent years, but senior Josh Scobey, who started slow but came on strong toward the end of last season, should have the job all to himself. He's a hard runner with deceptive speed and gives the Wildcats a legitimate threat in the backfield. It's Aaron Lockett's turn to take the baton in the long line of K-State's playmaking receivers. The senior is also one of the top return men in the country. Keep an eye on JC transfer Lawrence "Taco" Wallace to have an impact at receiver, too. Senior Gs Andy Eby and John Robertson are a nice, experienced security blanket for Snyder, who has key losses at center and one tackle spot.

**Offensive concerns:** How will the quarterback race develop? Will it be a two-headed, week-in, week-out distraction? Will one guy take control and run with it? How this plays out and how it affects team chemistry is the biggest issue facing the team. Snyder demands that his quarterbacks play within his system and make minimal mistakes. But he obviously would love to have another quarterback as tough to defend as Bishop. Roberson is a work in progress, especially in the minimal-mistakes department. But he's learning fast. It will be interesting to see if the presence of the mature Dunn, a 23-year-old who is married, pushes Roberson to greatness or to No. 2 on the depth chart. Roberson is loaded with talent, and many believe that with the right direction he could be more dangerous than Bishop. Snyder needs another receiving target, preferably Wallace, to step up. Sophomore C Nick Leckey and senior TE Nick Warren, both backups last year, have huge shoes to fill. Joe Hall, a bruising 6-2, 300-pound running back who was academically ineligible last year, was going to class in the spring but did not participate in spring ball. His status is up in the air. Should he return, he would give the Wildcats another threat in the backfield and take pressure off the quarterback.

**Defensive philosophy:** The success of K-State's 4-3 system depends on great playmaking from the linebackers, and that will be particularly important this season with so many huge holes on the line. The linebackers have the freedom to move and match up in the scheme but must be aggressive and active.

**Defensive stars:** Coordinator Phil Bennett thinks he may have one of the best linebacking groups in the country. He's really high on MLB Ben Leber, a senior who came on strong last year. Bennett compares Leber, a team captain a year ago who should be a dominant presence this season, to Mark Simoneau, one of K-State's all-time greats. Senior Warren Lott, last year's second-leading tackler, received an extra year of eligibility from the NCAA. Terry Pierce, an outside backer who was last year's Big 12 Defensive Freshman of the Year, looks ready to become a great player. The Wildcats are set at free safety, with seniors Jon McGraw and Derrick Yates, last year's league defensive newcomer of the year, returning. Junior Terence Newman, a sprinter on the K-State track team, could emerge as a top corner.

**Defensive concerns:** Bennett has a lot of work to do up front after losing basically his entire pass rush of DT Mario Fatafehi and DEs Monte Beisel and Chris Johnson. And DT DeVane Robinson, the lone starter back on the line, did not open spring practice with K-State. His status for the fall is unknown. If the Wildcats must find four new starters up front, that could be a problem, especially with USC, Oklahoma and

BIG 12



Colorado all in the first five weeks. The Wildcats finished fourth nationally in defense, which was a nice feat considering they were plagued all year by missed tackles and loose coverage. Bennett needs a force in the secondary to step up, particularly at strong safety, with Jarrod Cooper gone. K-State has a lot of young talent on defense, but the linebackers are really going to have to carry the load, especially early.

**Special teams:** Lockett made people forget that David Allen, the NCAA's all-time leading punt returner, was even around last year. With Allen nursing an injury the first half of the season, Lockett took the job and literally ran with it, averaging a mind-boggling 22.8 yards a return, with three touchdowns. He actually averaged more yards on punt returns than on kick returns (22.3). Although those roles are set, this is the first time in years that K-State doesn't return an All-American or All-Big 12 kicker.

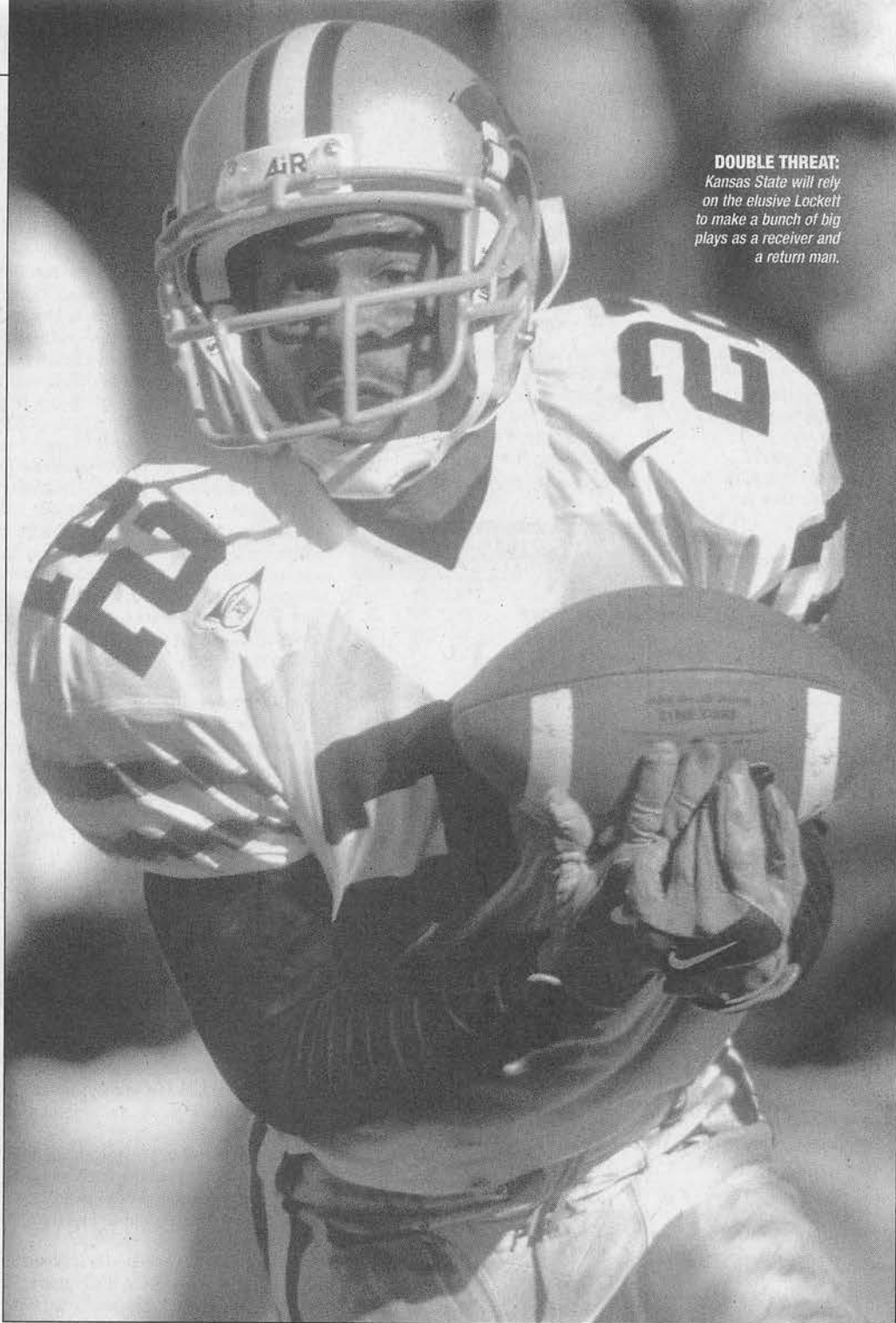
Sophomore Jared Brite is expected to replace All-American Jamie Rheem. Coaches are confident in his ability.

**Coaching staff:** It used to be that K-State had some turnover every other year, mostly from burnout. But all of Snyder's assistants have been with him at least three years now, including Bennett (three) and offensive coordinator Ron Hudson (seven), two of the best in the business. The program can't help but benefit from that continuity.

This program usually is one of the best-drilled teams in the league, but the

Wildcats' poor tackling last year was an eyesore. Snyder still doesn't have a Big 12 championship ring, but he will keep knocking on the door. He shows no signs of slowing down, and the Wildcats show no signs of falling back.

**Bottom line:** Given the Wildcats' schedule (at Oklahoma, at Nebraska) and losses at quarterback and defensive line, it's hard to see the team repeating as North champs. But this is a program that can no longer be taken for granted. The Wildcats' skill positions and coaching are as good as those at



**DOUBLE THREAT:** Kansas State will rely on the elusive Lockett to make a bunch of big plays as a receiver and a return man.

## TSNumber

# 346

Combined tackles, sacks and tackles for loss that T Mario Fatafehi and

Es Monty Beisel and Chris Johnson accounted for last year. All are gone, and their replacements won't touch those numbers. But they must be productive enough to let the linebackers, perhaps the best in the conference and led by Ben Leber, do the heavy lifting.

any school in the Big 12. And at the beginning of spring ball, Snyder talked about how this team had come together faster in the offseason than others in the past. Still, the quarterback question is huge, and whoever wins is going to be in his first full season as a starter in a complicated offense. Too many holes on the defensive line also are troublesome. But say the 'Cats do take their lumps early (Oklahoma). They might grow into something dangerous by the time of the North showdown in Lincoln on November 10. By that time, a victory over Nebraska could set up another trip to the Big 12 championship game, where the Wildcats would get another opportunity to finally push through.

PAUL NISSELY / TSN



# 3 Colorado

**National Rank**  
**26**

**Coach:** Gary Barnett (10-13, 2 years; 53-69-2 overall, 11 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Shawn Watson (2nd season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Vince Okruch (3rd season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 7  
**Lettermen lost:** 12  
**Lettermen returning:** 50  
**Site:** Boulder, Colo.  
**Stadium:** Folsom Field (grass, 51,655)  
**Last league title won:** 1991 (Big Eight)  
**Last bowl appearance:** 1998  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 42  
**2000 record:** 3-8; Big 12 North: 3-5/4th  
**Website:** www.cu-sports.com

## 2000 Results

Colorado State, L, 28-24  
at Southern California, L, 17-14  
Washington, L, 17-14  
Kansas State, L, 44-21  
at Texas A&M, W, 26-19  
Texas, L, 28-14  
at Kansas, L, 23-15  
Oklahoma State, W, 37-21  
at Missouri, W, 28-18  
Iowa State, L, 35-27  
at Nebraska, L, 34-32

## Schedule

A25—Fresno State  
S1—Colorado State\*  
S8—San Jose State  
S15—at Washington State  
S22—Kansas  
O6—at Kansas State  
O13—Texas A&M  
O20—at Texas  
O27—at Oklahoma State  
N3—Missouri  
N10—at Iowa State  
**N23—Nebraska**  
\*at Denver

## Game of the year

**Nov. 23—Nebraska**  
This schedule is more like it. The Big 12 still insists on Colorado facing K-State, Texas A&M and Texas in a row, but the Buffs should have more momentum heading into that stretch this year than last. Win two of three there and bring on the Huskers. After near misses the last two seasons against Nebraska, the Buffs are primed for a big win.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The secondary must cover better. A stouter pass rush would help. The offense has a chance to be Gary Barnett's best since he hit Boulder.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★  
**Receivers:** ★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★  
**Secondary:** ★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

Offense					
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	
WR	<b>John Minardi</b>	6-2	200	Sr.	
	Cedric Cormier	5-11	185	Sr.	
T	<b>Justin Bates</b>	6-4	295	Jr.	
	Dan Major	6-6	290	So.	
G	Marwan Hage	6-3	295	So.	
	Rawle King	6-6	310	Jr.	
C	Wayne Lucier	6-4	300	Jr.	
	Neil Hannifin	6-3	290	Sr.	
G	<b>Andre Gurode</b>	6-4	320	Sr.	
	Josh Foster	6-6	300	Jr.	
T	<b>Victor Rogers</b>	6-7	320	Sr.	
	Jordan Gehring	6-6	320	So.	
TE	<b>Daniel Graham</b>	6-3	245	Sr.	
	Quinn Sypniewski	6-6	255	So.	
WR	Roman Hollowell	5-6	160	Sr.	
	Derek McCoy	6-3	210	So.	
QB	<b>Craig Ochs</b>	6-2	215	So.	
	Bobby Pesavento	6-5	225	Sr.	
RB	Marcus Houston	6-2	205	Fr.*	
	<b>Cortlen Johnson</b>	5-9	210	Sr.	
FB	<b>Scott Nemeth</b>	6-2	235	Sr.	
	Brandon Drumm	6-2	230	Jr.	

Defense					
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	
E	Marques Harris	6-2	220	So.	
	Matt McChesney	6-5	280	So.	
T	<b>Justin Bannan</b>	6-3	295	Sr.	
	Brandon Dabdoub	6-1	295	Fr.*	
T	Sam Taulealea	6-0	320	Jr.	
	Brandon Boswell	5-10	240	Jr.	
E	Tyler Brayton	6-6	265	Jr.	
	Sam Wilder	6-5	265	Fr.*	
OLB	Aaron Killion	6-3	235	Jr.	
	<b>Andy Peeke</b>	6-0	200	Sr.	
MLB	<b>Jashon Sykes</b>	6-3	230	Sr.	
	Sean Tufts	6-4	225	So.	
OLB	<b>Kory Mossoni</b>	6-3	230	Jr.	
	Drew Wahlroos	6-3	235	Jr.	
CB	Roderick Sneed	6-0	180	Sr.	
	Clyde Surrell	5-10	180	So.	
SS	<b>Michael Lewis</b>	6-1	210	Sr.	
	Matt Duren	6-0	200	Sr.	
FS	<b>Robbie Robinson</b>	5-11	200	Sr.	
	Medford Mooror	6-2	190	So.	
CB	<b>Phil Jackson</b>	6-1	180	So.	
	Terrence Wood	5-10	175	Sr.	

## Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Jeremy Flores</b>	5-10	185	Sr.
P	<b>Mark Mariscal</b>	6-2	195	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** The Buffs will continue to develop a multiple offense based on the emerging talents and experience of sophomore QB Craig Ochs. Still, coach Gary Barnett is a power-running coach at heart, so look for him to turn his backs loose. Barnett says the development of sophomore TE Quinn Sypniewski means there will be more two-tight end sets in the offense. Starting TE Daniel Graham is an All-Big 12 candidate.

**Offensive stars:** Ochs, who emerged as the starter in the fourth game last season, is going to be a great one. Unlike Chris Simms at Texas or Eric Crouch at Nebraska, Ochs can beat you with his arm and his legs. He took his licks as a freshman, but he got stronger as the season went on and showed enough poise to nearly pull off a stunning comeback win at Nebraska. Consider, too, that Ochs succeeded with a beat-up backfield and a young offensive line. He should be even better this season if RB Marcus Houston, the program's—and maybe the nation's—top recruit a year ago, can bounce back from a hip flexor that kept him out most of last season. RB Cortlen Johnson, a senior who battled injuries and finished with 155 yards in the season finale at Nebraska, would help if he's eligible. He was suspended in the spring for academic reasons and missed spring drills. Graham might be the No. 1 tight end in the nation; he has terrific speed, and he's a dominant blocker. Graham led all Big 12 tight ends in catches (33) and yardage (433) but scored only one touchdown; he'll be looking for more production as a scorer. After shifting from center to guard midway through last season, Andre Gurode had a dominant second half and could emerge as an Outland candidate.

**Offensive concerns:** Even though the Buffs look poised to drop a few points on the Big 12, things have to fall into place. For one thing, Barnett can't have the injury problems again that plagued Houston and Johnson. Can Barnett develop a rotation to keep both happy? It's a nice problem to have. Perhaps the biggest concern is finding a go-to receiver, someone to fill the shoes of Javon Green. The likely candidate is John Minardi, a senior who is more of a possession receiver than Green was but became a favorite target of Ochs' toward the end of last season.

Minardi finished second in catches (48) among Big 12 receivers. Barnett needs Roman Hollowell or Cedric Cormier, both return specialists, to emerge as a deep threat.

**Defensive philosophy:** Colorado will continue to run an attacking 4-3, built around playmaking by the linebackers. The defensive line sets the tone for the Buffs, and the defense is funneled to the linebackers. But for Colorado to make strides, the secondary must be able to play consistently in man coverage.

**Defensive stars:** Whatever happened to Jashon Sykes? The star inside linebacker is back for his senior year and for good reason; he didn't play well enough last year to make leaving early for the NFL an option. Sykes again will be Colorado's Butkus and All-American candidate, and this time he means it. He admitted to playing a different way last year, playing not to get hurt and thinking about the NFL. The result was a young CU defense without a leader. And with plenty of lumps to go around. This season the Buffs have seven starters back, and Sykes promises to fly around and make big plays again. Up front, senior DT Justin Bannan is the lone starter returning and should draw double-teams again. SS Michael Lewis anchors a secondary with a lot back and a lot to prove.

**Defensive concerns:** There are seven starters back; the biggest concern is just getting them off to a fast start. The secondary spent most of last season backpedaling and chasing. It didn't get a lot of help up front, but it got a lot of experience. The unit had a solid spring, so the secondary could be a factor this year. Lewis and senior FS Robbie Robinson figure to be better. The Buffs really need sophomore Phil Jackson, who had a beleaguered freshman year, to be a big-time stopper at one corner. LBs Aaron Killion and Andy Peeke came on late last season and need to keep improving. Either Marques Harris or Tyler Brayton, or both, needs

## TSNumber

**122**

The team's average rushing yards—10th in the Big 12 and 82nd in the

nation last season. The dreadful total was a result of a young line and a battered backfield. That won't cut it under coach Gary Barnett, who wants a smash-mouth approach. With RB Marcus Houston back from injury and a more experienced line, the Buffaloes might nearly double that number.

BIG 12

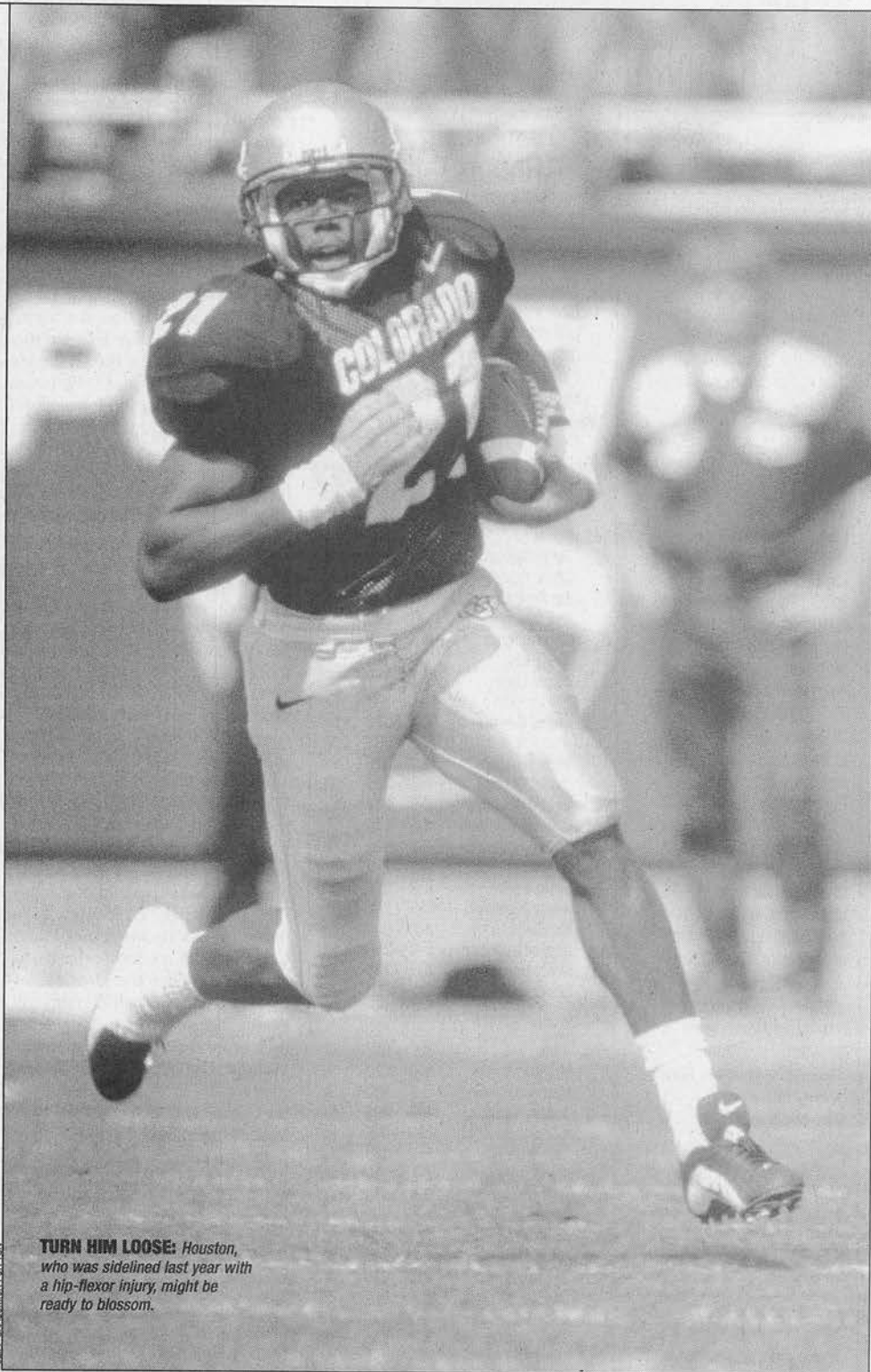


to step up at defensive end and put more heat on the quarterback. Because of the style of play the Buffs use, pressure from the front four is vital. They simply can't expect the secondary to cover for extended periods. But it's a two-way street. The rush helps the coverage, and the coverage forces the quarterback to hold the ball longer.

**Special teams:** The Buffs couldn't even count on a boost from their kicking game last year. A short kickoff by Mark Mariscal cost the team dearly against Nebraska. Look for Barnett to shake things up, allowing Mariscal (7-for-18 on field-goal attempts, 24-for-26 on point-after tries) to just kick off (hopefully deeper) while Jeremy Flores, who was held to punting duty last year with a hip flexor, handles both punting and kicking. Roman Hollowell (15 yards per punt return, 20.5 per kick return) gives the team a reliable return game.

**Coaching staff:** What have you done for us for lately, Gary? The miracle worker of Northwestern had a rebuilding job to do at his beloved Colorado. But Buffs fans and media want the job done yesterday. Barnett came under fire despite a ridiculously hard schedule that included non-conference games against Colorado State, Southern California and Washington; an inexperienced roster; and a ton of key injuries. The criticism was unfair, but it's also part of the win-now attitude of college football. Still, it's not too much to expect results this season. Just how good is Barnett? Anyone who takes Northwestern to the Rose Bowl has to be doing something right. He will be scrutinized just as closely this year as last, but this season he has a friendlier schedule and more experienced talent. Barnett may have fumbled the quarterback issue last September by not playing Ochs earlier, but this year everything looks pretty clear-cut. The coaches' meeting room—and the secondary—should get a huge emotional lift with the return of Tom McMahon, who beat lung cancer and is full time again as co-defensive coordinator and secondary coach.

**Bottom line:** Colorado may be a year away from a run at the Big 12 championship or a BCS bid. But keep one eye peeled on this squad this year. With just enough young talent you've never heard of and seniors like Graham and Sykes who are due for bust-out years, the Buffs could sneak up on the Big 12. If Ochs and Houston blossom as expected, then this is a team nobody will want to play by the end of the season. And there should be momentum; the first four games look like a springboard, not an anvil, this time around. Folks in the Flatirons still obsess over Nebraska and the Big Red 18-



**TURN HIM LOOSE:** Houston, who was sidelined last year with a hip-flexor injury, might be ready to blossom.

CLIFF GRASSMICK FOR TSN

wheeler. Maybe they need more reachable aspirations first. Colorado needs to start beating Kansas State again, especially considering the Wildcats have won two North Division titles and are pushing Nebraska. Here's a good goal for 2001: Get that swagger back, finish in the upper part of the North Division and make a bowl. Games at Kansas State and Texas make it unlikely for anything more. But if Ochs and Co. can get a split in those two games—and that's certainly possible—the Nebraska game in Boulder on November 23 will be for more than leftovers. Aren't the Buffs about due in that game after back-to-back heartbreak losses?



# 4 Missouri

**Offensive philosophy:** It will be multiple, which is another way to say that new coach Gary Pinkel loves to play to his strengths. Pinkel and offensive coordinator Dave Christensen showed their versatility together at Toledo, where the Rockets ranked in the top 10 in the nation in rushing in 1999 and 2000 after posting some of the best passing numbers in school history in 1996 and 1997. Look for Pinkel to lean toward the latter his first season.

**Offensive stars:** The Tigers have an intriguing situation at quarterback. Junior Kirk Farmer, the hard-luck kid, sustained a broken collar bone in Week 4 that ended his season and summoned the career of Darius Outlaw, ready or not. Outlaw took his lumps last season, throwing for nine touchdowns but 16 interceptions in seven games and struggling with his decision-making. Give a slight edge to Farmer, a 6-5, 210-pound junior, who has the tools to be a terrific college quarterback. TE Dwayne Blakley has gotten off to good starts the last two seasons only to be bottled up as the offense struggled with injuries at quarterback. Blakley, who had 18 catches a year ago, could be a huge factor at "R back"; Pinkel's offense doesn't use a fullback, instead using tight ends as blockers on the line or in the backfield. There's a buzz around junior WR Justin Gage, a basketball player who opened eyes last year with 44 catches for 709 yards and four touchdowns. The offensive line has three potential stars: G Mike Hayes, T Justin Bland and C A.J. Ricker.

**Offensive concerns:** Experience at quarterback is a concern, and, as always with Farmer, health is a concern. Neither Farmer nor Outlaw has had sustained success, and each will be running a new offense. The running game is a question mark. Expect RB Zack Abiron to beat out Zain Gilmore in the fall. Christensen is MU's third offensive coordinator in three seasons.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Tigers lost their top defender, Justin Smith, and will be learning a new, attacking 4-4 formation from defensive coordinator Matt Erberflus.

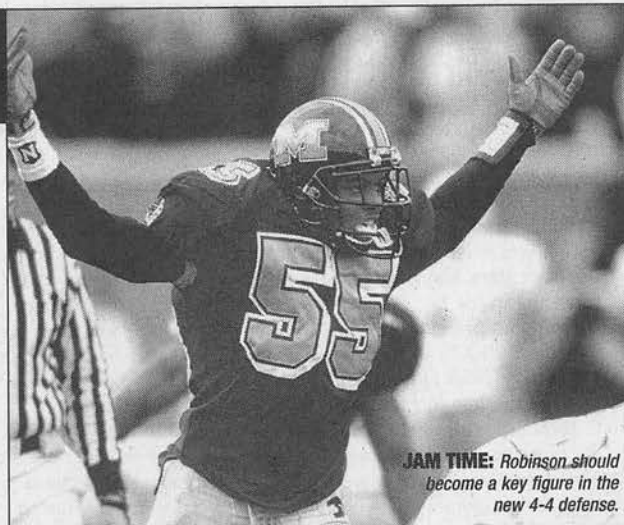
**Defensive stars:** Mizzou's strength is at linebacker, where both ILBs Jamonte Robinson and Sean Doyle are being touted as pre-season Butkus Award candidates. Robinson, a senior, struggled with an ankle injury and still had 79 tackles and four sacks. Doyle, a junior, also played with ankle and hamstring injuries and came up with 80 tackles and six sacks. Senior FS Clarence Jones (87 tackles, three interceptions) needs to carry a depleted secondary. Junior NG Cedric Harden can be a dominant force inside.

**Defensive concerns:** Erberflus' 4-4 relies on the linebackers and an "outside safety" who lines up as a linebacker to make big plays. Do the Tigers have an outside safety who can fit that role? Junior SS Gary Anthony, who had an injury-marred sophomore year, will try.

**Special teams:** Mizzou's special teams have been bad enough without having to overcome injuries. But last season K Brad Hammerich (7-of-9 on field-goal tries) was lost for the season with a broken collarbone while making a tackle in the seventh game, forcing walk-on Justin Scott to take over. Both will compete for the starting job. P Jared Gilpin (39.8-yard net) returns, but some of the punt team may be different. The Tigers gave up three punt returns for touchdowns and 15.4 yards per return.

**Coaching staff:** Pinkel is known as a no-nonsense kind of coach, with an aggressive style that led Toledo to a postseason bowl three of the past four seasons. Pinkel figures to shape up a Tigers team that has been undisciplined and inconsistent.

**Bottom line:** The schedule starts with Bowling Green and Southwest Texas at home, so the Pinkel Era should start fast. With Nebraska, Iowa State, Texas and Baylor at home, the Tigers should have to win only one or two road games (most likely at Michigan State, Oklahoma State or Kansas) to win six overall. If Pinkel's drilling clicks and a quarterback blossoms, the Tigers have the talent, especially at the skill positions and linebacker, to win six games and finish fourth in the Big 12 North.



**JAM TIME:** Robinson should become a key figure in the new 4-4 defense.

PAUL NISELY/TSN

## National Rank 56

**Coach:** Gary Pinkel  
(1st season)

**Offensive coordinator:** Dave Christensen (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Matt Erberflus (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** Multiple 4-4

**Starters lost:** 12

**Lettermen lost:** 17

**Lettermen returning:** 39

**Site:** Columbia, Mo.

**Stadium:** Memorial (grass, 68,174)

**Last league title won:** 1969 (Big Eight)

**Last bowl appearance:** 1998

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 59

**2000 record:** 3-8; Big 12

**North:** 2-6/T6th

**Website:** www.mutigers.com

## 2000 Results

Western Illinois, W, 50-20

at Clemson, L, 62-9

Michigan State, L, 13-10

at Nebraska, L, 42-24

Oklahoma State, W, 24-10

Kansas, L, 38-17

at Texas, L, 46-12

at Iowa State, L, 39-20

Colorado, L, 28-18

at Baylor, W, 47-22

Kansas State, L, 28-24

## Schedule

S1—Bowling Green

S8—Southwest Texas

S15—at Michigan State

S29—Nebraska

O6—at Oklahoma State

O13—Iowa State

O20—at Kansas

O27—Texas

N3—at Colorado

N10—Baylor

N17—at Kansas State

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Brandon Barnes	6-4	214	So.
	Brandon Severino	6-3	198	So.
T	<b>Aaron Crittendon</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Tony Clinker	6-4	272	Fr.*
G	Adrian Cole	6-4	339	Sr.
	Rob Droege	6-6	290	So.
C	<b>A.J. Ricker</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Jesse Belfield	6-2	283	Jr.
G	<b>Mike Hayes</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	J.P. Hall	6-4	289	Jr.
T	<b>Justin Bland</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Wes Wilson	6-4	312	Sr.
TE	<b>Dwayne Blakley</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	J.D. McCoy	6-3	250	So.
WR	<b>Justin Gage</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Shirdonya Mitchell	6-0	175	So.
QB	<b>Kirk Farmer</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Darius Outlaw	6-4	192	Jr.
RB	Zain Gilmore	6-1	215	Sr.
	Zack Abiron	5-10	228	So.
FB	Tay Jackson	5-10	178	So.
	Marcus James	5-8	169	So.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Josh O'Neal	6-1	235	Jr.
	Antwain Bynum	6-0	240	Jr.
T	<b>Cedric Harden</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Howard Brown	6-3	283	So.
T	Chris Ryan	6-3	291	Sr.
	Phil Pitts	6-4	270	Fr.*
E	Nick Tarpoff	6-3	245	Fr.*
	Keith Wright	6-4	256	Jr.
BAN	Jamonte Robinson	6-2	209	Sr.
	David Monroe	6-0	229	Sr.
MLB	Sean Doyle	6-0	227	Jr.
	Duke Revard	6-3	225	Sr.
OLB	Gary Anthony	6-0	209	Jr.
	Grant Thornburg	6-1	211	Jr.
CB	Michael Harden	5-11	174	So.
	R.J. Jones	6-1	151	Jr.
SS	<b>Marcus Caldwell</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Taurus Ferguson	5-11	202	Jr.
FS	<b>Clarence Jones</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Kevin Johnson	6-3	204	Fr.*
CB	Terrence Curry	5-11	175	Jr.
	Rayfield Johnson	5-11	169	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Brad Hammerich</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
P	<b>Jared Gilpin</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>Sr.</b>

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

BIG 12



# 5 Iowa State

**Offensive philosophy:** Coordinator Steve Loney had a blast last season, with a multiple offense that averaged 424.5 yards and could drive the field in 10 plays or two. But with inexperience at key positions, Loney will go with a more conservative approach centering on senior RB Ennis Haywood.

**Offensive stars:** Haywood, a 5-11 senior, is the best running back returning in the Big 12. He is refreshed after offseason hernia surgery and primed for a huge season after rushing for 1,237 yards in 2000—with the hernia. Haywood will be running behind mammoth senior G Lorenzo White, who is one of three starters back on the line including senior LT Marcel Howard and junior C Zach Butler, who started a handful of games in relief in 2000. TE Mike Banks, who missed spring practice after shoulder surgery, is underrated and can make a big catch or block. Expectations are huge for sophomore WR Jamaul Montgomery, who will start in three-wide sets.

**Offensive concerns:** Coach Dan McCarney entered the spring with three options at QB: sophomore Gerrin Scott, who played sparingly in 2000 as a backup but missed the spring after back surgery; redshirt freshman Cris Love (6-5, 210), who entered spring as the No. 1; and Seneca Wallace, a first-team JC All-American at Sacramento City College. Making the right decision here might mean the season for McCarney; the Cyclones can't live on Haywood alone. They need Montgomery, senior Craig Campbell or sophomore Lane Danielsen to become a dependable primary receiver.

**Defensive philosophy:** McCarney's turnaround blueprint revolved around a 4-3 defense that was big and mean up front. But now that key starters are missing, this season will show if his recruiting efforts on defense will pay off.

**Defensive stars:** Senior DE Kevin DeRonde is the only experienced returnee from a dominant line. Sophomore T Jordan Carstens looks like a future star, but the team needs to make the future now. The Cyclones have experience back at linebacker in junior MLB Chris Whitaker and OLBs Matt Word and Justin Eilers. But the most intriguing player is OLB Tyson Smith, the state of Iowa's top recruit in 1999, who has been brought along slowly. The team is set in the secondary, with sophomore FS Marc Timmons and senior SS Adam Runk returning.

**Defensive concerns:** Any time you lose nine seniors, it's time to regroup. There aren't great players returning, but there are plenty of good young ones, including Carstens, Smith and Timmons, who can make the transition process a lot smoother if they take the next big steps this season. With so many heavy losses up front, there will be a lot of pressure on the secondary and the linebackers to make big plays.

**Special teams:** The Cyclones improved measurably under assistant Bob Elliott, and that should continue. The kicking and punting jobs are open and could get a boost in the fall from freshman Troy Blankenship.

**Coaching staff:** McCarney had a lot of chips riding on last season, and it paid off big, with a bowl game and contract extension. Much of the credit can go to his acknowledging that he's best at motivating and recruiting. McCarney hired his best staff, including Elliott as associate head coach and Loney as offensive coordinator, and let his assistants work their magic. The Cyclones didn't kill themselves with mistakes as much as they did in previous years, and that helped push them over the hump last year.

**Bottom line:** This season is all about showing that last season was a breakthrough and not slipping back below .500. There are huge holes to fill but several winnable games, too. If this program is what it appears to be, the Cyclones will sweep Northern Iowa, Iowa, Baylor and Oklahoma State at home. The swing games for six wins and a second straight bowl trip are on the road: at Ohio, Missouri and Kansas. If the Cyclones can find a quarterback and reload on defense, it's definitely doable.

**EXPERIENCE COUNTS:** Woodley is one of just a handful of veterans returning at the skill positions on offense.



AP PHOTO / STEVE POPE

## National Rank 64

**Coach:** Dan McCarney  
(22-45, 6 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Steve Loney (5th season)

**Defensive coordinator:** John Skladany (5th season)

**Offensive scheme:** Pro set

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 13

**Lettermen lost:** 27

**Lettermen returning:** 32

**Site:** Ames, Iowa

**Stadium:** Jack Trice (grass, 43,000)

**Last league title won:** 1912

(Big Eight)

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1999

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 79

**2000 record:** 9-3 (beat Pittsburgh in Insight.com Bowl); Big 12 North: 5-3/3rd

**Website:** www.cyclones.com

## 2000 Results

Ohio, W, 25-15

UNLV, W, 37-22

at Iowa, W, 24-14

at Baylor, W, 31-17

Nebraska, L, 49-27

at Oklahoma State, W, 33-26

Texas A&M, L, 30-7

Missouri, W, 39-20

at Kansas State, L, 56-10

at Colorado, W, 35-27

Kansas, W, 38-17

Pittsburgh, W, 37-29

## Schedule

S8—Northern Iowa

S15—Iowa

S22—at Ohio

S29—Baylor

O6—at Nebraska

O13—at Missouri

O20—Oklahoma State

O27—at Texas A&M

N3—Kansas State

N10—Colorado

N17—at Kansas

## DEPTH CHART Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Lane Danielsen	6-0	195	So.
	Jack Whitver	5-11	181	So.
T	<b>Marcel Howard</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jared Bucks	6-3	273	Sr.
G	Bob Montgomery	6-3	302	So.
	Brian Donahue	6-5	275	Sr.
C	<b>Zach Butler</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Kerry Carlson	6-3	300	Jr.
G	<b>Lorenzo White</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Luke Vander Sanden	6-3	287	Fr.*
T	Cory Hannen	6-5	307	Sr.
	Casey Shelton	6-6	285	So.
TE	<b>Kyle Knock</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Jason Lyftogt	6-4	252	Sr.
WR	<b>Craig Campbell</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jesse Arnold	6-3	196	Jr.
QB	Seneca Wallace	6-1	181	Jr.
	Cris Love	6-5	210	Fr.*
RB	Ennis Haywood	5-11	218	Sr.
	Michael Wagner	5-7	187	So.
FB	<b>Joe Woodley</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Frank Garcia	5-10	244	So.

## Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Brett Kellogg	6-2	248	Fr.*
	Beau Coleman	6-1	235	Jr.
T	<b>Jordan Carstens</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Andy Leaders	6-3	250	Fr.*
NG	Willie Judd	6-3	282	Sr.
	Cale Stubbe	6-4	275	Fr.*
E	<b>Kevin DeRonde</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Tim TeBrink	6-3	258	Fr.*
OLB	Tyson Smith	6-2	230	So.
	Jeremy Loyd	6-2	220	Jr.
MLB	<b>Chris Whitaker</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Brent Nash	5-11	240	Fr.*
OLB	<b>Justin Eilers</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	<b>Matt Word</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
CB	Johnny Smith III	5-11	170	So.
	Harold Clewis	5-10	183	So.
SS	Adam Runk	6-2	183	Sr.
	Nick Linder	5-10	187	So.
FS	<b>Marc Timmons</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Anthony Forrest	6-0	194	Fr.*
CB	Bryan Ollie	5-8	180	So.
	DeAndre Phillips	5-9	195	So.

## Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Tony Yelk	6-0	201	Fr.
P	Casey Baldwin	6-2	211	So.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 6 Kansas

**Offensive philosophy:** Coach Terry Allen came to Kansas in 1997 with a reputation for airing it out, mixing it up and having some fun in a multiple scheme, but he has yet to produce. A lot will depend on his choice of quarterback, but with the strength of the offense at receiver and Allen's facing a make-or-break season, this might be a good year to get really diverse. Allen will call the plays this year, something he used to do but got away from.

**Offensive stars:** Zach Dyer entered the spring as the No. 1 candidate to replace Dylon Smith, the school's sixth-best career passer. Dyer completed only 5 of 12 passes for 60 yards in six games as a backup last year. He'll be battling redshirt freshmen Mario Kinsey and Kevin Long. There's every indication that Allen wants Kinsey, a run-pass threat a la Smith, to win the job. The Jayhawks should have a solid feature back in sophomore Reggie Duncan, who got tossed into duty last year because of injuries. Kansas has its deepest pool of receivers in a long time. Seniors Harrison Hill (107 career catches) and Termaine Fulton (11 career touchdowns) are the old reliables, but the one to watch is senior Roger Ross, who busted out a year ago as a JC transfer with 29 catches for 481 yards and four touchdowns. Senior T Justin Hartwig needs to be the leader of a retooled line.

**Offensive concerns:** Quarterback is the main one. Allen needs to find a starter immediately, and start grooming him. Whoever the quarterback is, he'll be inexperienced. So it might be necessary to keep it simple, at least early, to prevent the turnovers that held this team back a year ago. The line needs to replace two starters, and Allen is banking on junior Justin Sands, who moved from the defensive line, to emerge as a force at tackle. A key question is whether Duncan will have an impact as a starter.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Jayhawks use a 4-3 alignment. The pressure is on new defensive coordinator Tom Hayes to shape up a unit that ranked 80th overall, 99th against the run and 95th in scoring last year.

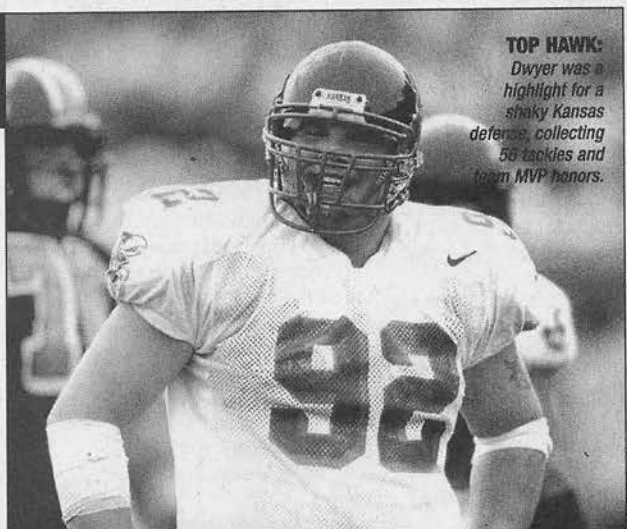
**Defensive stars:** With holes to fill at linebacker and safety, the Jayhawks need a strongman up front. They've got one in senior T Nate Dwyer, who was the team's MVP last year and second-team all-Big 12 with 56 tackles, the most by a KU down lineman since 1993. Senior ILB Marcus Rogers, last year's leading tackler, has All-Big 12 potential. Kansas has veterans at each corner in senior Andrew Davison (25 consecutive starts) and Quincy Roe (three interceptions, 14 deflections).

**Defensive concerns:** A defense that couldn't make plays last year has holes to fill in two of the biggest playmaking spots: outside linebacker and safety. Allen brought in three JC linebackers in case Algie Atkinson, Glenn Robinson and Brandon Watkins can't hack it. Hayes needs senior SS Jamaree Bryant to step into Carl Nesmith's shoes, and he needs redshirt freshmen Leo Bookman and Santana Lane to grow up fast.

**Special teams:** This unit was maybe the worst in the league, or anywhere, last season. KU must replace its punter and deep snapper, and that's not a bad thing. The Jayhawks ranked 104th in punting and for the first few weeks couldn't find anyone to get a snap back to the punter. JC signee Curtis Ansel figures to do the punting, and redshirt freshman Chris Tyrrell must replace Joe Garcia as the kicker. As for deep snapper, KU is taking volunteers.

**Coaching staff:** After a fourth straight losing season and with average attendance down to around 25,000, Allen needed to shake up his staff to save his hide. He's got five new coaches, but the spotlight will be on Hayes and defensive line coach Travis Jones. Both were solid hires.

**Bottom line:** It doesn't look good for Allen. He lost a supporter when athletic director Bob Frederick resigned in the spring. Also, the schedule is not set up for a one-year turnaround. Kansas has UCLA, Oklahoma and Nebraska at home and must travel to Colorado, Texas Tech, Kansas State and Texas. A sweep of Wyoming, Missouri and Iowa State at home is a must. A bowl bid would save his job. Anything less than 5-6 will be trouble.



**TOP HAWK:** Dwyer was a highlight for a shaky Kansas defense, collecting 56 tackles and team MVP honors.

PAUL NISSELY/TSN

## National Rank 82

**Coach:** Terry Allen (18-27, 5 years; 93-53 overall, 13 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Terry Allen

**Defensive coordinator:** Tom Hayes (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 15

**Lettermen lost:** 19

**Lettermen returning:** 37

**Site:** Lawrence, Kan.

**Stadium:** Memorial (artificial turf, 50,250)

**Last league title won:** 1968 (Big Eight)

**Last bowl appearance:** 1995

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 37

**2000 record:** 4-7; Big 12

**North:** 3-5/5th

**Website:** www.jayhawks.org

## 2000 Results

at SMU, L, 31-17

UAB, W, 23-20

Southern Illinois, W, 42-0

at Oklahoma, L, 34-16

Kansas State, L, 52-13

at Missouri, W, 38-17

Colorado, W, 23-15

Texas Tech, L, 45-39

at Nebraska, L, 56-17

Texas, L, 51-16

at Iowa State, L, 38-17

## Schedule

S1—Southwest Missouri St.

S8—UCLA

S15—Wyoming

S22—at Colorado

O6—at Texas Tech

O13—Oklahoma

O20—Missouri

O27—at Kansas State

N3—Nebraska

N10—at Texas

N17—Iowa State

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Harrison Hill	5-11	190	Sr.
	J.T. Thompson	5-10	180	So.
T	Justin Sands	6-7	305	Jr.
	Jawad Pearson	6-5	300	Jr.
G	Bob Smith	6-4	290	Sr.
	John Harvey	6-6	305	Jr.
C	Nick Smith	6-4	285	Sr.
	Greg Nicks	6-4	300	So.
G	Tony Damiani	6-4	287	Jr.
	Brock Teddleton	6-6	330	Jr.
T	Justin Hartwig	6-4	305	Sr.
	Gabe Rosalis	6-5	285	Jr.
TE	David Hurst	6-3	260	Jr.
	Adrian Jones	6-5	235	So.
WR	Termaine Fulton	5-10	188	Sr.
	Byron Gasaway	6-4	205	Jr.
QB	Zach Dyer	6-3	205	So.
	Mario Kinsey	6-1	175	Fr.*
RB	Reggie Duncan	5-9	220	So.
	Daniel Coke	6-1	215	So.
FB	Mitchell Scott	6-3	238	Jr.
	Austine Nwabuisi	6-1	215	Fr.*

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Travis Watkins	6-4	265	Fr.*
	Clarence Laws	6-4	255	Fr.*
T	Marquis Hayes	6-4	260	Sr.
	Tony Strickland	6-6	250	So.
T	Ervin Holloman	6-3	285	Sr.
	Josh Kellerman	6-1	240	Jr.
E	Charlie Dennis	6-5	240	Jr.
	David McMillan	6-4	250	Fr.*
OLB	Algie Atkinson	6-5	240	Sr.
	Greg Cole	6-2	235	Jr.
MLB	Marcus Rogers	6-1	235	Sr.
	Brandon Watkins	6-2	205	Fr.*
OLB	Glenn Robinson	6-3	235	So.
	Leo Etienne	6-0	215	Jr.
CB	Carl Ivey	5-11	180	So.
	Bobby Birhiray	6-1	175	So.
SS	Jake Letourneau	6-2	190	Jr.
	Santana Lane	6-0	175	Fr.*
FS	Jamaree Bryant	5-11	195	Sr.
	Brandon Wier	6-2	195	Sr.
CB	Quincy Roe	5-9	185	Sr.
	Matt Jordan	5-10	190	Jr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Chris Tyrrell	6-0	215	Fr.*
P	Curtis Ansel	6-1	185	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 1 Texas

## National Rank

1

**Coach:** Mack Brown (27-11, 3 years; 113-85-1 overall, 17 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Greg Davis (4th season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Carl Reese (4th season)  
**Offensive scheme:** I-formation  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 7  
**Lettermen lost:** 12  
**Lettermen returning:** 48  
**Site:** Austin, Texas  
**Stadium:** Memorial (grass, 80,082)  
**Last league title won:** 1996  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1997  
**2000 TSN rank:** 7  
**2000 record:** 9-3 (lost to Oregon in Holiday Bowl); Big 12 South: 7-1/2nd  
**Website:** www.TexasSports.com

## 2000 Results

Louisiana-Lafayette, W, 52-10 at Stanford, L, 27-24  
 Houston, W, 48-0  
 Oklahoma State, W, 42-7  
 Oklahoma, L, 63-14  
 at Colorado, W, 28-14  
 Missouri, W, 46-12  
 Baylor, W, 48-14  
 at Texas Tech, W, 29-17  
 at Kansas, W, 51-16  
 Texas A&M, W, 43-17  
 Oregon, L, 35-30

## Schedule

S1—New Mexico State  
 S8—North Carolina  
 S22—at Houston  
 S29—Texas Tech

## 06—vs. Oklahoma\*

O13—at Oklahoma State  
 O20—Colorado  
 O27—at Missouri  
 N3—at Baylor  
 N10—Kansas  
 N23—at Texas A&M  
 \*at Dallas

## Game of the year

### Oct. 6—vs. Oklahoma

Texas lost to Oklahoma in football, men's basketball and women's basketball. At least the state has an edge in national politics. The Longhorns still are having nightmares about Josh Heupel and a lack of defensive effort against the Sooners last year. If Texas really is a national title contender, it must get it done here.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

Texas teems with talent. The new defensive tackles appear up to the challenge. The only worry at this point is finding a kicker.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★★★  
**Receivers:** ★★★★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★★★★  
**Secondary:** ★★★★★

Key: based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>B.J. Johnson</b>	6-1	190	So.
	Kyle Shanahan	6-3	170	Jr.
T	Robbie Doane	6-6	305	Jr.
	Lionel Garr	6-7	335	Fr.*
G	<b>Derrick Dockery</b>	6-6	330	Jr.
	Beau Baker	6-5	275	Jr.
C	<b>Matt Anderson</b>	6-4	300	Sr.
	Beau Baker	6-5	275	Jr.
G	<b>Antwan Kirk-Hughes</b>	6-3	310	Sr.
	Tillman Holloway	6-3	297	So.
T	<b>Mike Williams</b>	6-6	339	Sr.
	Lionel Garr	6-7	335	Fr.*
TE	<b>Mike Jones</b>	6-4	260	Sr.
	Brock Edwards	6-5	265	So.
WR	<b>Roy Williams</b>	6-5	210	So.
	Sloan Thomas	6-2	195	So.
QB	<b>Chris Simms</b>	6-5	222	Jr.
	Major Applewhite	6-1	207	Sr.
RB	Victor Ike	5-11	195	Jr.
	Kenny Hayter	5-11	215	Jr.
FB	<b>Matt Trissel</b>	6-0	235	Jr.
	Brett Robin	5-11	190	So.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Cory Redding</b>	6-5	260	Jr.
	Jermain Anderson	6-3	232	Sr.
T	Adam Doiron	6-4	260	So.
	Stevie Lee	6-4	300	Fr.*
T	Marcus Tubbs	6-4	280	So.
	Miguel McKay	6-1	275	Jr.
E	<b>Kalen Thornton</b>	6-3	270	So.
	Adam McConathy	6-4	250	Jr.
OLB	<b>Tyrone Jones</b>	6-4	235	Sr.
	O.J. McClintock	6-2	232	Jr.
MLB	<b>D.D. Lewis</b>	6-1	245	Sr.
	Reed Boyd	6-3	230	So.
OLB	<b>Everick Rawls</b>	6-1	235	Sr.
	Marcus Wilkins	6-2	225	Sr.
CB	<b>Quentin Jammer</b>	6-1	198	Sr.
	Ervis Hill	5-9	185	Sr.
SS	Lee Jackson	6-3	205	Sr.
	Ahmad Brooks	5-8	180	Sr.
FS	<b>Dakarai Pearson</b>	5-10	180	So.
	Phillip Geiggar	5-11	205	So.
CB	<b>Roderick Babers</b>	5-10	183	Jr.
	Nathan Vasher	5-11	170	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Matt McFadden	5-11	180	Fr.*
P	Brian Bradford	6-2	215	Jr.

Returning starters in bold

\* Redshirt

**Offensive philosophy:** Texas is returning to the days of Ricky Williams when it simplified the offense with basic running plays executed out of multiple formations. Instead of 20 different running plays, look for five out of 15 formations, although UT wants to be able to run the same plays out of one- and two-back sets. Coach Mack Brown is looking to incorporate more misdirection and more play-action along with the team's zone and isolation plays. He also wants to add more wrinkles—or "toys," as he calls trick plays—such as the ones Oregon used so effectively in its Holiday Bowl win over the Longhorns.

**Offensive stars:** The Longhorns are one of just two schools returning a pair of 1,000-yard passers, but Brown figures to start junior Chris Simms and use senior Major Applewhite only in times of injury or ineffectiveness. Either could start for 80 percent of the Division I-A programs, if not more. The wide receiver position is overflowing with talent, and young talent at that. Sophomore Roy "Legend" Williams makes at least one acrobatic catch a game, and both he and sophomore B.J. Johnson can take it the distance. TE Bo Scaife is returning off a major knee injury from last August and will be a pivotal part of the offense if he's 100 percent. RT Mike Williams is emerging as a top-notch offensive lineman who will be protecting the lefthanded Simms' back.

**Offensive concerns:** The replacement for TB Hodges Mitchell could be incoming freshman blue-chipper Cedric Benson, although junior Victor Ike seems ready to make the move from kick returner and spot player to full-time running back. Backup FB Brett Robin, solid at everything if not spectacular, had a strong spring and made a bid for the tailback job. Two-year backup Robbie Doane and incoming signee Alfio Randall should square off at left tackle in the biggest

August battle. Texas is hoping RG Antwan Kirk-Hughes' chronic shoulder problems were adequately corrected by offseason surgery. More than anything, Brown can't afford to let his quarterback situation develop into another quarterback controversy. The constant shuffling last season divided the team and at times severely limited a dangerous, talented offense. Brown says he has learned his lesson from last season. We'll wait and see how itchy the trigger finger gets if Simms begins to struggle.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Longhorns' biggest priority is to get as much speed on the field as possible. Texas will probably lean toward more two-deep pass coverage but disguise it to look like man coverage. By doing so, it hopes to produce more bad throws by opposing quarterbacks and more confusion that could lead to more sacks. Brown wants tougher, more physical linebackers and a better pass rush from his front four. The Longhorns have proved they can get to the quarterback and force turnovers under defensive coordinator Carl Reese. But covering in big games has been a problem. Hence, the move to more two-deep play in the secondary.

**Defensive stars:** Senior CB Quentin Jammer turned down a chance to leave school for the NFL early even though he probably would have been a high first-round draft pick. A big, physical defensive back, Jammer loves the challenge of shutting down the opponent's top receiver. Cory Redding has been a force at defensive end and makes big plays despite sometimes relying too much on his instincts. He also needs to be more consistent. Kalen Thornton is coming on strong at the other end after exceeding expectations as a true freshman. Three-year starter D.D. Lewis has been a mainstay at middle linebacker even though he's not a prototype player at the position.

**Defensive concerns:** The Longhorns have to find two starters—and at least as many backups—at defensive tackle to fill the oversized shoes of Casey Hampton and Shaun Rogers. Texas also had to overcome the death of junior Cole Pittman, the transfer of Ryan Haywood and the foot surgery of expected starter Stevie Lee. Texas will hope Lee heals and joins sophomore Marcus Tubbs and undersized Maurice Gordon, who could figure in as a pass-rushing specialist. Junior Miguel McKay

## TSNumber

2

Trips outside the state that Texas makes this season. Those ventures outside the Texas borders

are to Oklahoma State and Missouri—hardly daunting venues. Should Texas win the Big 12 South, it can look forward to playing the conference title game just up the road in Dallas. The helpful schedule, in addition to a wealth of talent, has hopes high.



and transplanted sophomore end Adam Doiron are also possibilities in the interior. Texas is hungry for better linebacker play and probably won't get redshirt freshman Austin Sendlein ready to be a big-time contributor by fall. It is time for Tyrone Jones, Marcus Wilkins or Everick Rawls to upgrade their games or have Reed Boyd, athletic O.J. McClintock and freshman Aurmon Satchell break into the rotation. Depth at end is also lacking.

**Special teams:** This area is the single biggest factor that could forestall Texas' drive for a national championship. It has been a recurring bugaboo for Brown, although the Longhorns now block more kicks than they allow. Texas will break in a new kicker—probably redshirt freshman Matt McFadden or walk-on Dylan Becker—who has never tried a field goal in a major college game. Both have strong legs and will be accurate from 30 yards in, but the Longhorns will likely sacrifice long-range tries out of fear of giving up valuable field position. Brian Bradford arrived in the spring from Trinity Valley Junior College, where he averaged 44 yards a punt and even played quarterback some. Key deep snapper Hunter McWilliams skipped spring drills to tend to classes, and his return is in question. That would leave Texas looking to walk-on Cullen Loeffler and FB/TE Chad Stevens to fill the void. Ike snapped Texas' burdensome string of 22 years and 265 games without a kickoff return for a touchdown when he ran one back 93 yards for a score in the Holiday Bowl.

**Coaching staff:** When secondary coach Everett Withers departed for the Tennessee Titans in February, it marked the first departure from Brown's staff since he came to Texas in 1998. Brown scored big by attracting secondary coach Duane Akina from Arizona's staff, much to the chagrin of incoming Wildcats and former Longhorns head coach John Mackovic, who wanted Akina to remain as defensive coordinator. Akina is highly energetic and experienced as a coordinator on both sides of the ball and has been in demand. He was wooed by the Cleveland Browns and finished second to June Jones for the head coaching job at Hawaii. Reese continues to improve the defense but had trouble scheming in big games against Oklahoma and Oregon last season. Despite directing a passing offense that produced a school-record 266 yards a game in his first year and bettering that mark each of the next two seasons, offensive coordinator Greg Davis receives more criticism than is warranted. But he sometimes leans too heavily on the pass. Then there is Brown, the coaching enigma. Not many in the nation can recruit like he can. But when it comes to game-day decisions and having a team prepared to play, there are concerns. Texas must win a big game this season to debunk the theory that it is nothing more than a team of paper stars that lacks heart and desire. That criticism—fair or not—lies with Brown. So will the accolades if and when the Longhorns win big games consistently.

**Bottom line:** Over three years, Brown has yanked a page out of for-

ROBERT SEALE / TSN



**SUPER SOPH:** Redding led the Longhorns' defense with 6½ sacks, tied for the lead with 22 QB pressures and was second with 17 tackles for loss last season.

mer nemesis Bobby Bowden's book and lured one outstanding recruiting class after another to Austin, where Texas ought to be able to land better personnel than most teams. Throw in a lightweight schedule—make that a flyweight schedule—with three of their first four games at home and six opponents that were 3-8 or worse last year, and the Longhorns have the makings for their best run at a national title since the mid-1980s. Texas fans are starved for a shot at a fourth national crown and first since 1970. Three consecutive nine-win seasons have whetted their appetite for more, and Oklahoma's turnaround has upped the ante. If Simms continues to develop, the Longhorns will score often on any defense. And if the defensive line comes around and the secondary squeezes tighter, Texas could find a way to Pasadena.



# 2 Oklahoma

## National Rank

4

**Coach:** Bob Stoops (20-5, 2 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Mike Mangino (2nd season)  
**Defensive coordinators:** Mike Stoops (3rd season) and Brent Venables (3rd season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Starters lost:** 9  
**Lettermen lost:** 22  
**Lettermen returning:** 45  
**Site:** Norman, Okla.  
**Stadium:** Memorial (grass, 75,762)  
**Last league title won:** 2000  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1998  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 17  
**2000 record:** 13-0 (beat Florida State in Orange Bowl); Big 12 South: 8-0/1st  
**Website:** www.soonersports.com

### 2000 Results

Texas-El Paso, W, 55-14  
 Arkansas State, W, 45-7  
 Rice, W, 42-14  
 Kansas, W, 34-16  
 Texas, W, 63-14  
 at Kansas State, W, 41-31  
 Nebraska, W, 31-14  
 at Baylor, W, 56-7  
 at Texas A&M, W, 35-31  
 Texas Tech, W, 27-13  
 at Oklahoma State, W, 12-7  
 Kansas State, W, 27-24  
 Florida State, W, 13-2

### Schedule

A25—North Carolina  
 S8—North Texas  
 S15—at Tulsa  
 S29—Kansas State  
**06—vs. Texas\***  
 013—at Kansas  
 020—Baylor  
 027—at Nebraska  
 N10—Texas A&M  
 N17—at Texas Tech  
 N24—Oklahoma State  
 \*at Dallas

## Game of the year

Oct. 6—Texas

This one's for bragging rights, a leg up in the recruiting wars south of the Red River, probably the South Division championship and maybe a trip to Pasadena. But nothing more. The Sooners destroyed the Longhorns last season, then took an impromptu team picture on the field with horns (read: fingers) down. Ah, rivalries. Gotta love 'em.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

This year's edition might be better than last season's national championship group. Keep an eye on the offense. If a quarterback emerges, it will fly high.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★  
**Receivers:** ★★★★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★★  
**Secondary:** ★★★★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Curtis Fagan	6-0	175	Jr.
	Antwone Savage	6-0	190	Jr.
T	Frank Romero	6-4	286	Sr.
	Will Mathis	6-5	303	Sr.
G	Howard Duncan	6-3	299	Sr.
	Clint Werth	6-6	275	Jr.
C	Josh Smith	6-1	281	Jr.
	Cliff Takawana	6-3	300	Fr.*
G	Mike Skinner	6-4	298	Jr.
	Josh Tucker	6-3	250	So.
T	Wes Sims	6-5	310	Fr.*
	Howard Duncan	6-3	299	Sr.
TE	Trent Smith	6-5	229	Jr.
	Lance Donley	6-4	225	So.
WR	Andre Woolfolk	6-1	175	Jr.
	Will Peoples	6-1	190	Fr.*
QB	Nate Hybl	6-3	217	Jr.
	Jason White	6-2	220	So.
RB	Quentin Griffin	5-6	187	Jr.
	Jerad Estus	6-1	180	Fr.*
FB	Jamar Mozee	5-10	216	So.
	Jeremy Hess	6-2	237	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Cory Heinecke	6-1	242	Sr.
	Marcus Chretien	6-3	241	Sr.
T	Bary Holleyman	6-4	284	Sr.
	Jamal Brown	6-6	310	Fr.*
T	Kory Klein	6-2	270	So.
	Juan Prischker	6-2	272	Jr.
E	Dan Cody	6-4	230	So.
	Jimmy Wilkerson	6-4	230	So.
ILB	Teddy Lehman	6-1	232	So.
	Jimmy Wilkerson	6-4	230	So.
ILB	Rocky Calmus	6-3	234	Sr.
	Brandon Pryor	5-11	229	Jr.
OLB	Brandon Moore	6-1	232	Sr.
	Gayron Allen	5-10	195	Fr.*
CB	Derrick Strait	5-11	194	So.
	Antonio Perkins	6-0	178	Fr.*
SS	Roy Williams	6-0	221	Jr.
	Matt McCoy	5-11	195	So.
FS	Brandon Everage	5-11	192	So.
	Terrance Sims	6-1	185	Jr.
CB	Antonio Perkins	6-0	178	Fr.*
	Terrance Sims	6-1	185	Jr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Tim Duncan	6-2	198	Sr.
P	Jeff Ferguson	5-10	190	Sr.

*Returning starters in bold*

*\* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** If it ain't broke, chipped, bent or even slightly damaged, Oklahoma won't even consider fixing what worked magically last season in a perfect 13-0 year. And why should it? The Sooners tweaked their glorified, vastly improved run-and-shoot offense and bolstered their running game in 2000. The combination of a wide-open, short passing game with glue-fingered wide receivers and a much stronger running game kept their defense off the field and moved the first-down markers in the second half when OU too often self-destructed in 1999. OU figures to incorporate more of a downfield passing game to take some of the pressure off the quarterback to complete every three-yard route to keep drives alive. Every run-and-shoot variation has eventually evolved to more downfield passing. It's a natural progression once defenses catch up to the same dink-and-dunk routes.

**Offensive stars:** The receivers as a group are the heroes of this team because they are tenacious, clutch, hard runners after the catch and—most significantly—interchangeable. Antwone Savage was the only Sooners wideout to even show up on an All-Big 12 team. He made the coaches' second team and received only honorable mention on the AP's all-league team. No receiver even ranked among the top 10 in the conference. Still, Savage with 48 catches was the most productive of the bunch, and even had the third-most rushing yards on his team with 181. There's no dropoff from him to Curtis Fagan, Andre Woolfolk, Josh Norman and Damian Mackey, any one of whom could be the star on a Saturday. TE Trent Smith gives the Sooners yet another receiving threat. RB Quentin Griffin scored 16 touchdowns, the most since Billy Sims' 22 in 1979, and gained almost 10 yards a catch on his 45 receptions. The junior ranks as the second-leading returning rusher in the league but will give up some carries to swift sophomore Jerad Estus, who sat out last season as a partial qualifier. Estus gives OU explosion and strength; Griffin has speed and shifty moves. Either will run often behind LT Frank Romero, who came to school as a tight end, was moved to defensive tackle and eventually settled in on the offensive line, where he has excelled. He didn't allow Nebraska DE Kyle Vanden Bosch a sack and manhandled Florida State's Jamal Reynolds in a dominant Orange Bowl performance.

**Offensive concerns:** It would be a stretch to suggest Oklahoma is worried about the debut of Nate Hybl as starting quarterback. The 6-3, 217-pound junior can turn a 40 in 4.6 seconds and is more athletic and has a stronger arm than Heisman Trophy runner-up Josh Heupel. Still, he has played in only five games in a mop-up role. The transfer from Georgia completed only 9 of 14 passes last year—all against Baylor—and has yet to start a game. Questions will remain about his intangibles, accuracy, leadership qualities and ability to play in tight games. The one thing Heupel mastered was decision-making, and that's the one key area of the offense. Hybl must learn as he goes. If he can't handle it, OU will turn to Jason White, a well-armed sophomore. The loss of two starting offensive linemen must be answered because last year's cohesive unit gave up just 17 sacks. Clint Werth, a junior college All-American, will get a shot at right tackle, and junior Josh Smith most likely will move into the center position.

**Defensive philosophy:** How does a team improve upon a dominant performance against Florida State? The Sooners shut out the high-powered Seminoles for an entire game, save for a late gift safety. OU will look for more speed up front and try to avoid having to rely on the blitz so much as it did in Bob Stoops' first season. The Big 12's best secondary will take chances and wreak havoc.

**Defensive stars:** Rocky Calmus remains the heart and soul of this unit. The intense linebacker, the school's first consensus All-American defender since 1991, overcame a painful wrist injury and played with

## TSNumber

O

Career starts for the top two quarterbacks on the roster. Junior Nate Hybl likely will replace Josh

Heupel, the runner-up for the Heisman Trophy. Sophomore Jason White is behind Hybl. Hybl, who began his career at Georgia, has more physical tools than Heupel. But Heupel's intangibles made him special. Hybl hit 9 of 16 passes for 144 yards last season.



a cast. He had offseason surgery and had a hip bone implanted in that wrist, but don't expect anything less than last season's 125 tackles and 17 stops for loss from this quiet leader. SS Roy Williams quite simply is a stud. This physical safety was overlooked for much of last season despite 93 tackles but can bang like a linebacker and has the size at 221 pounds to make running backs go backward. There is no better defensive back in the league. CBs Derrick Strait, who had huge plays to seal wins over Oklahoma State and Kansas State in the Big 12 championship game, provides skin-tight pass coverage. The potential loss of CB Michael Thompson, who sustained serious injuries in a car accident in May, affects what could've been the best secondary in the country. Watch out for a breakout season from 6-4, 230-pound LB Jimmy

Wilkerson, who was shifted to defensive end in the Orange Bowl and applied a lot of heat on Florida State QB Chris Weinke.

**Defensive concerns:** The loss of Orange Bowl MVP Torrance Marshall leaves a void at middle linebacker, but Wilkerson could fill it if that's where he lands. If not, sophomore Teddy Lehman could jump in.

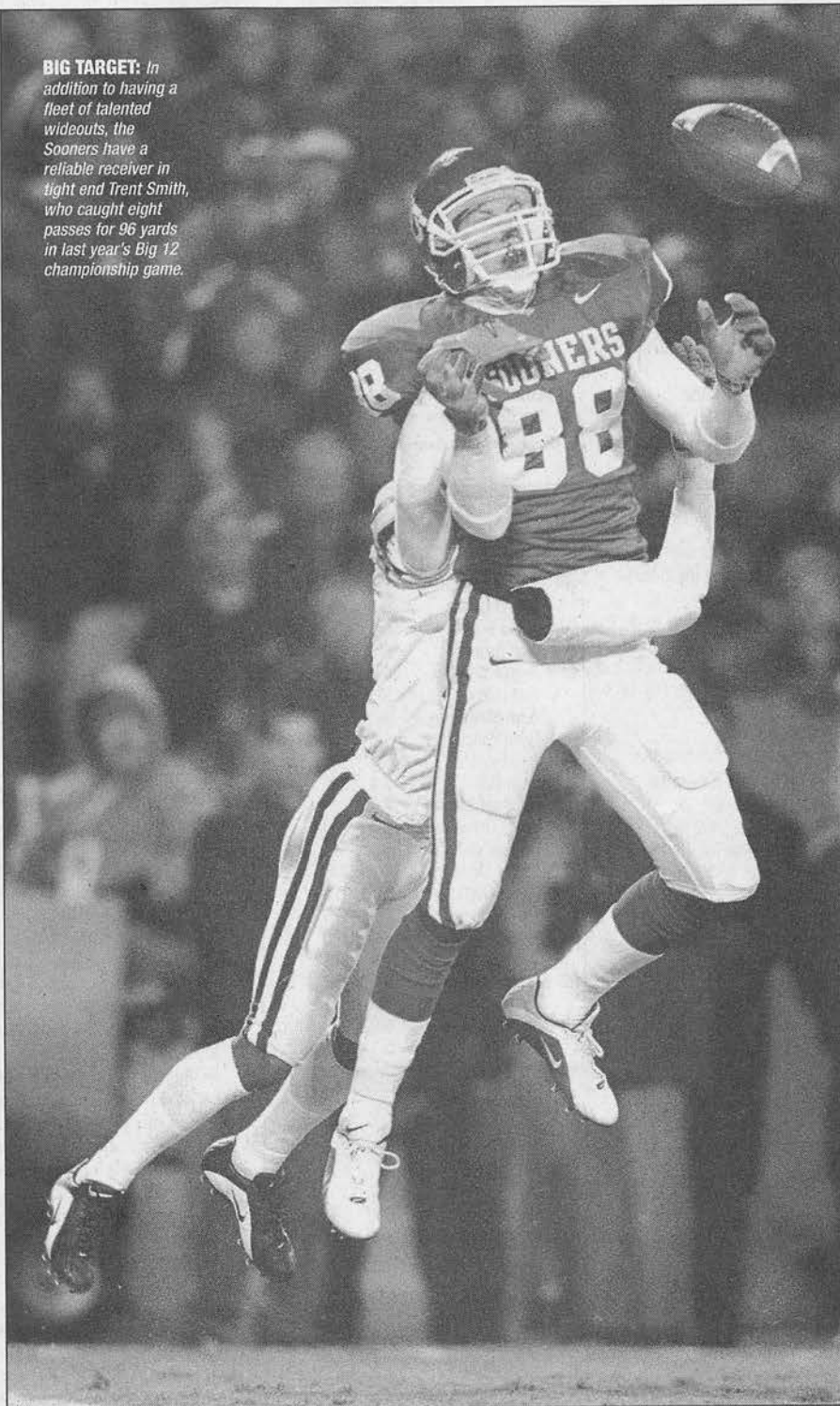
Oklahoma didn't have the one big pass-rusher up front, with no lineman producing more than five sacks. But Bary Holleyman started the last three games and has potential. A lot is expected from sophomore Kory Klein, who started the last seven games inside as a redshirt freshman. Third-year sophomore Brandon Everage probably will be an improvement over FS J.T. Thatcher, who was a playmaker with a league-leading eight interceptions but was too inconsistent in his coverage.

**Special teams:** Oklahoma has the best two kickers in the league in P Jeff Ferguson and K Tim Duncan. Ferguson led the league with a 44-yard net average and was the unofficial MVP in the Orange Bowl, where he had a 42-yard average on eight punts, four of which pinned the Seminoles inside their 10. He had just one blocked last year. Duncan was a tad inconsistent, hitting 13-of-21 field goal attempts, but did nail seven of his last 10 in the regular season. Thatcher's absence will be felt more in kick returns, but Norman, Savage or Mackey will be a capable replacement.

**Coaching staff:** Stoops' staff remained intact. As many as four assistants received inquiries about head coaching positions, none more serious than Missouri's look at co-defensive coordinator Brent Venables. This talented young staff not only got OU off the mat and put it back on the map, it made Norman the capital of college football in 2000. They are 12-0 in home games.

**Bottom line:** Curiously, after a perfect 13-0 season, OU is looking at an unblemished 14-0 year if it hopes to repeat as national champ after booking an extra game with North Carolina for the season opener August 25. The game will help finance renovations in the locker room and weight room at Owen Field. The Sooners incredibly did not lose a single starter to injury for one game. If Hybl can replace Heupel's magic and the bounces go their way, the Sooners

**BIG TARGET:** In addition to having a fleet of talented wideouts, the Sooners have a reliable receiver in tight end Trent Smith, who caught eight passes for 96 yards in last year's Big 12 championship game.



could make a visit to the Rose Bowl and a return trip to the Rose Garden to see the President. But that may be much easier said than done. Heupel's impact on the team was immeasurable. It may be too much to ask Hybl, though he's physically gifted, to make the same audibles and correct throws nearly every time he steps to the line. The defense could be better than last year's group, and that's scary. But it may have to carry Hybl and the offense early, and eventually in a big game. Texas has been hearing about the 63 points the Sooners hung on the scoreboard in last year's Red River Rivalry, and Nebraska is back home in the comfort of Memorial Stadium for the Oklahoma game. Those two games—and the Big 12 championship game—will make OU's road to Pasadena tough.

DILLIP VISHWANATH / TSN

BIG 12



# 3 Texas A&M

**National Rank**  
**34**

**Coach:** R.C. Slocum  
(109-37-2, 12 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Dino Babers (1st season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Mike Hankwitz (5th season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple pro sets  
**Defensive scheme:** 3-4  
**Starters lost:** 12  
**Lettermen lost:** 18  
**Lettermen returning:** 48  
**Site:** College Station, Texas  
**Stadium:** Kyle Field (grass, 80,650)

**Last league title won:** 1998  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1990

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 21  
**2000 record:** 7-5 (lost to Mississippi State in Independence Bowl); Big 12 South: 5-3/3rd  
**Website:**  
www.AggieAthletics.com

## 2000 Results

at Notre Dame, L, 24-10  
Wyoming, W, 51-3  
Texas-El Paso, W, 45-17  
Texas Tech, W, 33-15  
Colorado, L, 26-19  
at Baylor, W, 24-0  
at Iowa State, W, 30-7  
Kansas State, W, 26-10  
at Oklahoma State, W, 21-16  
Oklahoma, L, 35-31  
at Texas, L, 43-17  
Mississippi State, L, 43-41 (OT)

## Schedule

S1—McNeese State  
S6—at Wyoming  
S22—Oklahoma State

## S29—Notre Dame

O6—Baylor  
O13—at Colorado  
O20—at Kansas State  
O27—Iowa State  
N3—at Texas Tech  
N10—at Oklahoma  
N23—Texas

## Game of the year

### Sept. 29—Notre Dame

A win against the Irish and former Aggies defensive coordinator Bob Davie could result in a 4-0 start for Slocum, keep the wolves at bay and spark a return to national prominence and a possible run at the Big 12 title. Then again, a loss to the Irish at Kyle Field would turn up the heat on Slocum, whose popularity is waning.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The Wrecking Crew must overhaul its linebacking corps. It will be difficult to open up the offense if no receivers develop.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★  
**Receivers:** ★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★  
**Secondary:** ★★★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Bethel Johnson	5-11	188	Sr.
	Ellison Collins	6-3	206	So.
T	Andre Brooks	6-4	298	So.
	Alan Reuber	6-6	289	So.
G	<b>Taylor Whitley</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Britt Lively	6-5	311	So.
C	<b>Seth McKinney</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Geoff Hangartner	6-5	287	Fr.*
G	Billy Yates	6-1	292	Jr.
	John Kirk	6-4	282	So.
T	<b>Michael Mahan</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Kasey Cheshier	6-4	279	Fr.*
TE	Michael de la Torre	6-5	244	Jr.
	Lonnie Madison	6-3	236	Sr.
WR	Dwain Goynes	5-10	179	Jr.
	Mickey Jones	5-9	178	Sr.
QB	<b>Mark Farris</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Vance Smith	6-4	226	Jr.
RB	<b>Richard Whitaker</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Keith Joseph	6-2	221	Fr.*
FB	Joe Weber	6-0	233	Jr.
	Stacy Jones	5-11	229	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Evan Perroni	6-5	265	Sr.
	Rocky Bernard	6-3	294	Sr.
T	<b>Ty Warren</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Marcus Jasmin	6-4	323	Fr.*
E	Linnis Smith	6-4	250	So.
	Rocky Bernard	6-3	294	Sr.
OLB	Jarrod Penright	6-3	232	Jr.
	Everett Smith	6-2	215	So.
ILB	Jared Morris	6-3	240	So.
	Harold Robertson	6-3	217	Sr.
ILB	<b>Brian Gamble</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Amon Simon	6-1	224	Sr.
OLB	Christian Rodriguez	6-2	230	Sr.
	Jesse Hunnicutt	6-3	237	Jr.
CB	<b>Sean Weston</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Adam Black	5-10	173	So.
SS	<b>Terrence Kiel</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Wes Bautovich	6-2	210	Sr.
FS	Jay Brooks	5-9	190	Sr.
	Dawon Gentry	5-11	189	So.
CB	<b>Sammy Davis</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Jonte Buhl	5-9	163	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Chris Sims	6-0	163	Fr.*
P	<b>Cody Scates</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>So.</b>

*Returning starters in bold*

*\* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** Dino Babers, the Aggies' fourth coordinator in six years, will likely be as unpredictable as he wants to be, focusing on a passing attack that incorporates a physical running game. Babers arrives from Arizona, where he called plays for three seasons for Dick Tomey's offense, which alternated quarterbacks before the 2000 season. That shouldn't be the case in College Station, where Mark Farris is firmly entrenched. Babers brings more emotion and is equally versed in physical, smash-mouth football and four- and five-wide attacks, although he may be hard-pressed to find enough capable receivers. But A&M likely will discard a lot of the motion from last year's sets and will line up in both one and two-back alignments, with former TB Joe Weber filling the role of FB Ja'Mar Toombs, who left early for the NFL.

**Offensive stars:** Farris, who sat out football for five years to chase a pro baseball dream, enjoyed a breakthrough season last year. The 6-2, 206-pound junior threw for 2,551 yards, led an upset over Kansas State and had the Aggies in position to beat eventual national champion Oklahoma with a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter. C Seth McKinney, back for his senior season, is the premier offensive lineman in the Big 12 and should make everyone's preseason All-American list. Intelligent with a terrific work ethic, McKinney will be looked to for leadership.

**Offensive concerns:** The early departures of Toombs and junior WR Robert Ferguson could hamstring A&M, although the team is better suited to survive the loss of Toombs in the backfield because of Weber, Richard Whitaker and redshirt freshman slasher Keith Joseph. Bethel Johnson never has lived up to his big billing and, coming off a strong spring, will have to emerge as the go-to receiver to make the passing game click. He could be the key to the entire season. Junior Dwain Goynes, easily the fastest Aggie with 4.3 speed, could be a big playmaker but will have to develop more consistency to help stretch the field. Notre Dame transfer Jamaar Taylor is an option at end as well. The dismissal of LT Tango McCauley for breaking team rules and the leg injury to RT Alan Reuber deplete any depth along the offensive line, and coach R.C. Slocum might look to incoming freshman sensation Jami Hightower for an immediate impact. A&M lacks a serious threat at tight end.

**Defensive philosophy:** Same old, same old for the Wrecking Crew, which has a lot of new faces.

A&M will continue to operate out of the 3-4 formation and will attack with the snap of the ball, although coordinator Mike Hankwitz might not be forced to protect a young secondary (which returns three starters) as he did in 2000. Fewer all-out blitzes could be called for.

**Defensive stars:** While not spectacular, Brian Gamble is as steady a linebacker as there is. Heady, reliable and a fervent student of the game, the junior inside linebacker lost his mother in an automobile accident before last season but still put up good numbers and was the team's inspirational leader. His 110 tackles ranked as the sixth most in the Big 12. Junior CB Sammy Davis was hobbled by injury late in the year but tried to play through it and should be among the league's better pass-coverage backs. He has great instincts if not outstanding speed. DE Rocky Bernard sat out last year with torn knee ligaments but should rebound and have a standout season. He is the team's best pass rusher and could emerge as an all-Big 12 candidate.

**Defensive concerns:** Lack of depth along the line and rampant inexperience among the linebackers could hamstring the defense's usual top-notch play. Three seniors were lost up front, leaving Bernard and rapidly improving Ty Warren to lead the way for young linemen like Linnis Smith and Marcus Jasmin. Both starting outside linebackers and one inside linebacker also are gone, leaving a crew of talented but raw replacements like Jarrod Penright, a junior who started one game last year, as well as adequate seniors Christian Rodriguez,

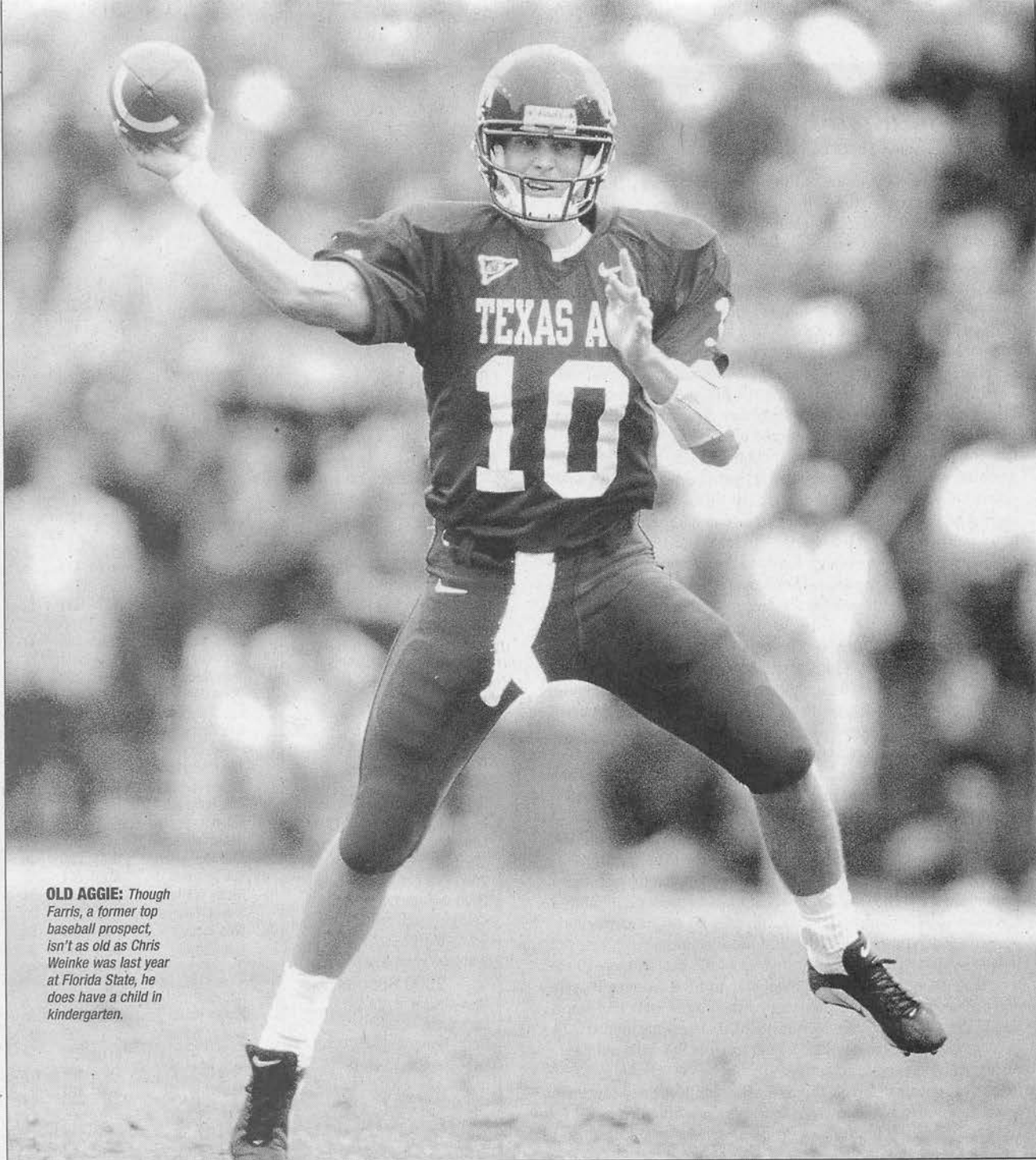
## TSNumber

**6**

Consecutive seasons the Aggies have finished with at least three losses. It has conspired to

build a roaring fire under coach R.C. Slocum as he enters his 13th season in College Station. A schedule that features six 2000 bowl teams and an improving Colorado squad won't help. A Texas program that is on the way up has Aggies watchers anxious.





**OLD AGGIE:** Though Farris, a former top baseball prospect, isn't as old as Chris Weinke was last year at Florida State, he does have a child in kindergarten.

Amon Simon and former nickel coverage guy Harold Robertson. **Special teams:** P Cody Scates had a satisfactory year as a true freshman, but his kickoffs were too inconsistent. Chris Sims, an all-state kicker for Texas state champion Garland two years ago, redshirted but could be ready to handle kicking duties on the heels of Terence Kitchens. The Aggies didn't run back a kick for a score, but Johnson, Whitaker and Mickey Jones will compete for the opportunity. **Coaching staff:** The revolving door always is in working order in College Station. Since 1989, Slocum's staff has undergone several changes. This past offseason, three more coaches left for NFL jobs in the offseason, including offensive coordinator Steve Kragthorpe, who joined the Buffalo Bills. Actually, there has been so much turnover that A&M is recycling coaches. Slocum welcomed back Ken Rucker as running backs assistant after he departed for North Carolina and then—for about a month—Alabama. Babers brings a higher-energy, highly accountable sys-

tem to the offense with no tolerance for mistakes. He had offenders drop and give him push-ups or run laps for any spring screw-ups. Kevin Sumlin comes from Purdue to coach the wide receivers.

**Bottom line:** Slocum put himself in another precarious position by finishing the year with three consecutive losses, even though A&M led both Oklahoma and Mississippi State (in the Independence Bowl) by 10 points or more in the fourth quarter before faltering. Four straight bowl losses, nine total losses over the last two years and a 7-5 mark last season is pumping up the pressure on Slocum, particularly with Texas' three straight nine-win years and OU's stunning turnaround. The Aggies need to drastically upgrade their running game in the fourth quarter and find some clutch receivers. A taxing schedule brings in Notre Dame and takes A&M to Colorado, Kansas State and Oklahoma before the finale against Texas.

ROBERT SEALE / TSN



# 4 Texas Tech

**Offensive philosophy:** Come out firing and then fire some more. In the Mike Leach plan, the Red Raiders run onto the field for the first play and then almost totally abandon the running game thereafter. Texas Tech threw 614 times last season, or 164 more times than did Oklahoma, where Leach came from. Most passes are of the short variety. The second-year head coach fielded a ground game that ranked 113th in college football and didn't have a running back rush for more than 78 yards in a single game. That could change this fall because Leach sees the need to supplement the passing game. No coach is more impulsive than the 40-year-old Leach, who considers anywhere on the field four-down territory.

**Offensive stars:** Junior QB Kliff Kingsbury deserved a Purple Heart for all the purple bruises he suffered after taking a beating but hanging tough in a constantly crumbling pocket. He makes good decisions and has more poise than a tightrope walker in a snowstorm. One-time Heisman candidate RB Ricky Williams, back for a sixth year, is bigger with the same quickness and figures to get more touches out of the backfield. He has almost 3,000 career rushing yards, was the team's third-leading receiver and could be one of the league's top backs. Sophomore RB Wes Welker is a natural who came out of nowhere as a true freshman and could be a big-time weapon.

**Offensive concerns:** WR Anton Paige, a 6-5 transfer from Northwest Mississippi Community College, will need to nearly duplicate his 64-catch, 1,237-yard, 18-touchdown stats in Lubbock, and speedy WR Darrell Jones will have to excel as well. WR Carlos Francis turned in a stunning seven-catch, 234-yard performance against Utah State, then disappeared at times and had just one reception in three other games. An unhealthy offensive line never got healthy and used seven different lineups. Three starters are coming off surgery and sat out the spring.

**Defensive philosophy:** Tech blitzed like Pavlov's dog. Snap the ball, bring the house. Defensive coordinator Greg McMackin's unit attacked with the best of them and produced a nation-high three shutouts, even if they did come against teams (Louisiana-Lafayette, Baylor and Oklahoma State) that won only six of 33 games and scored a touchdown or less in 13 of those contests.

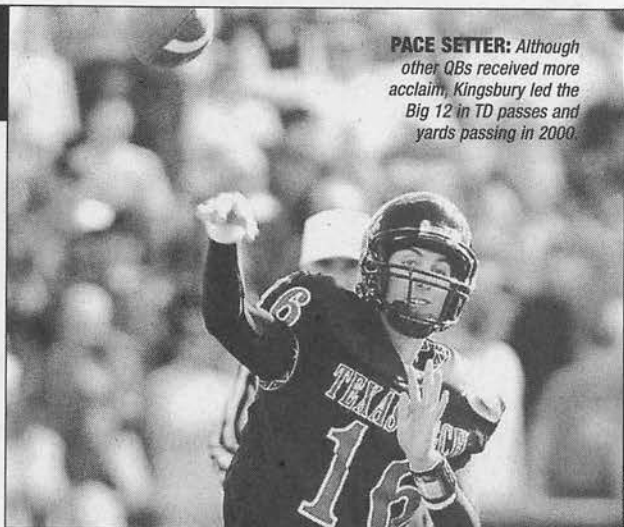
**Defensive stars:** This group featured six of the Big 12's top 10 tacklers, none more ferocious and reliable than LB Lawrence Flugence and SS Kevin Curtis. Flugence topped the league with 156 stops, and Curtis, who plays like an outside linebacker, has totaled 274 tackles in two seasons. Junior DE Aaron Hunt is a talented pass rusher who had eight sacks.

**Defensive concerns:** Tech is thin at linebacker, lost three-fourths of its starting secondary and could have precious little depth. LB Rusty Bucy has been solid but injury prone. Defensive backs have to make far too many tackles.

**Special teams:** The Red Raiders will have to break in a new kicker, but any of the dozen kickers auditioning might be an improvement because Tech missed 13-of-32 field-goal attempts the last two seasons. P Clinton Greathouse is better than adequate, and Welker returned two punts for touchdowns last season.

**Coaching staff:** Except for secondary coach Brian Norwood, who left for Penn State, the staff remained intact. Former Seattle Seahawks great Dave Brown came out of retirement to coach the Red Raiders defensive backs. Disgusted over the loss to East Carolina in the Galleryfurniture.com Bowl, a serious-minded Leach instituted Midnight Maneuvers for intense offseason conditioning.

**Bottom line:** Leach's second season could be a repeat of the first. There's a flimsy non-conference schedule and a brutal Big 12 slate including Nebraska and Kansas State. Tech won enough to be bowl-eligible for the 11th time in 14 seasons, but it could be watching the postseason unless it can run and stop the run.



**PAGE SETTER:** Although other QBs received more acclaim, Kingsbury led the Big 12 in TD passes and yards passing in 2000.

## National Rank 51

**Coach:** Mike Leach (7-6, 1 year)

**Offensive coordinator:** Mike Leach

**Defensive coordinator:** Greg McMackin (2nd season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 10

**Lettermen lost:** 20

**Lettermen returning:** 50

**Site:** Lubbock, Texas

**Stadium:** Jones SBC (Astroturf, 50,500)

**Last league title won:** 1996

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1999

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 65

**2000 record:** 7-6 (lost to East Carolina in Galleryfurniture.com Bowl)

**Big 12 South:** 3-5/4th

**Website:** www.texastech.com

## 2000 Results

New Mexico, W, 24-3  
Utah State, W, 38-16  
North Texas, W, 13-7  
La.-Lafayette, W, 26-0  
at Texas A&M, L, 33-15  
Baylor, W, 28-0  
Nebraska, L, 56-3  
at Kansas State, L, 28-23  
at Kansas, W, 45-39  
Texas, L, 29-17  
Oklahoma State, W, 58-0  
at Oklahoma, L, 27-13  
East Carolina, L, 40-34

## Schedule

S8—New Mexico  
S15—at UTEP  
S22—North Texas\*  
S29—at Texas  
O6—Kansas  
O13—Kansas State  
O20—at Nebraska  
O27—at Baylor  
N3—Texas A&M  
N10—at Oklahoma State  
N17—Oklahoma  
\*At Irving, Texas

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Darrell Jones</b>	6-3	195	Sr.
	Carlos Francis	5-9	188	So.
T	<b>Casey Keck</b>	6-3	247	So.
	Daniel Loper	6-7	280	Fr.*
G	<b>Matt Heider</b>	6-5	305	Sr.
	Cody Campbell	6-4	290	Fr.*
C	<b>Toby Cecil</b>	6-4	262	So.
	Dylan Gandy	6-4	260	Fr.*
G	Lance Williams	6-2	302	Sr.
	<b>Rex Richards</b>	6-4	299	Jr.
T	Paul Erickson	6-5	284	Jr.
	Jason May	6-4	295	Jr.
TE	Mickey Peters	6-3	194	So.
	Cole Roberts	6-6	245	Sr.
WR	Anton Paige	6-5	205	Jr.
	Nehemiah Glover	5-8	165	Fr.*
QB	<b>Kliff Kingsbury</b>	6-4	200	Jr.
	B.J. Symons	6-2	204	So.
RB	<b>Ricky Williams</b>	5-9	195	Sr.
	Shaud Williams	5-8	171	Jr.
RB	<b>Wes Welker</b>	5-9	185	So.
	King Scovell	5-11	184	Sr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Aaron Hunt</b>	6-3	239	Jr.
	Rashon Rasberry	6-3	235	Sr.
T	Lamont Anderson	6-1	283	So.
	Beau Radney	6-3	304	So.
T	<b>Robert Wyatt</b>	6-1	301	Jr.
	Josh Page	6-2	277	Jr.
E	Zeno McCoy	6-5	219	Jr.
	Josh Ratliff	6-3	240	Jr.
OLB	Rusty Bucy	6-1	226	Jr.
	Preston Hartfield	6-0	222	Jr.
MLB	<b>Lawrence Flugence</b>	6-1	221	Jr.
	Toby Shain	5-11	241	So.
OLB	Jonathan Hawkins	5-11	224	Sr.
	Jason Wesley	5-11	201	So.
CB	C.J. Johnson	5-10	190	Sr.
	Damien Chandler	6-0	178	Fr.*
SS	<b>Kevin Curtis</b>	6-3	209	Sr.
	Ryan Aycock	6-0	187	So.
FS	Paul McClendon	5-10	178	Sr.
	B.J. Johnson	6-0	174	So.
CB	Ronald Ross	5-11	193	Sr.
	Harold Watson	5-9	180	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Clinton Greathouse	5-11	201	Jr.
P	<b>Clinton Greathouse</b>	5-11	201	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 5 Oklahoma State

**Offensive philosophy:** Given new head coach Les Miles' background as a Dallas Cowboys assistant, Oklahoma State figures to have a pro-style offense with a wide-open passing game. But Miles hung around Emmitt Smith long enough to know a formidable running attack can do wonders for the passing game. The problem is, OSU doesn't have anyone resembling a vintage Troy Aikman or Smith in Stillwater. These Cowboys will probably use a two-back I-formation as their base offense, but that could change as Miles becomes more familiar with his personnel.

**Offensive stars:** Huge G Jeff Machado and big LT Kyle Eaton could be as good as it gets when it comes to postseason honors. The Cowboys could, however, have budding stars in hot-shot, versatile QB Aso Pogi, who threw for 1,550 yards and six touchdowns, and high-potential RB Tatum Bell. Pogi can avoid the pass rush and turn upfield for yardage as he showed by running for 159 yards and six scores. He also became the first OSU quarterback to post back-to-back 300-yard passing games. Bell was impressive as a freshman, averaging 5.1 yards a carry.

**Offensive concerns:** Oklahoma State does not have a proven tight end of a dangerous go-to receiver, although three of its top wide-outs are back, beginning with sophomore Rashaun Woods. The top three tight ends totaled 41 catches, and all are gone. Nothing will have the new coaching staff more apprehensive than the lack of quality depth at quarterback and tailback. The dropoff from Pogi to probable backup—and redshirt freshman—Jake Hammond is severe.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Cowboys will operate out of an unorthodox 4-2-5 alignment, which is somewhat of a surprise considering how hard-pressed they were to come up with competent defensive backs. New defensive coordinator Bill Clay, an experienced hand, guided the nation's 11th-most proficient defense at UAB last season, where the Blazers allowed only 17.4 points a game.

**Defensive stars:** After totaling a team-high 95 tackles last year—with five games of 10 or more—Dwayne Levels could be ready to burst upon the scene as one of the league's top linebackers. He runs well, can bring pressure on the quarterback and can cover receivers out of the backfield. LB Terrence Robinson is also capable after a solid season. The good news is SS Elbert Craig returns after having more tackles (78) than any other freshman in the Big 12, but the bad news is that Craig had to make so many tackles. FS Chris Massey is a terrific athlete who needs to step forward.

**Defensive concerns:** Oklahoma State needs to develop playmakers up front, where four starters have left. Versatile defensive lineman Kevin Williams has the size and experience and had 11 stops in the backfield, but he hasn't shown the overall consistency. Depth in the secondary is lacking. The Cowboys ranked 105th nationally in pass defense and gave up more passing touchdowns (20) than any team in the league.

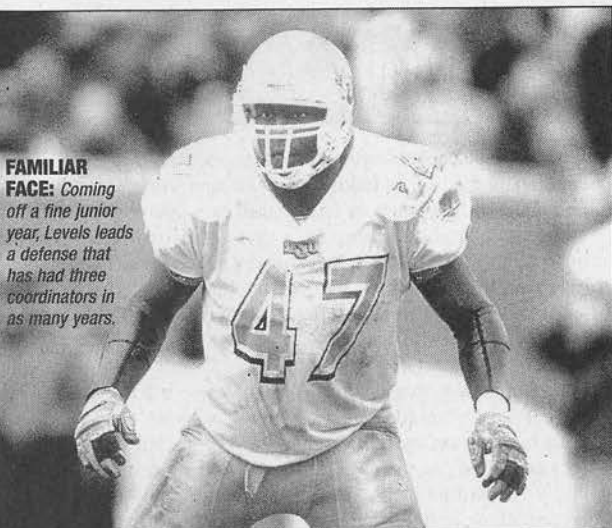
**Special teams:** The Cowboys will have to break in a new place-kicker, but P Scott Elder returns after averaging just 37.6 yards in a subpar season. The Cowboys were a woeful 92nd in the country in kick returns.

**Coaching staff:** Miles, a former player and assistant under Michigan's Bo Schembechler, returns to the school where he served as offensive coordinator for three seasons—and its last bowl season—before leaving to coach Dallas' tight ends. Mike Gundy is the third different offensive coordinator in three years, and passing-game coordinator Darrell Wyatt left Kansas' embattled staff. Clay is the elder statesman of the OSU staff, while tight ends coach Josh Henson played under Miles in 1997.

**Bottom line:** Miles must change the Cowboys' mindset after three consecutive losing seasons and 11 in 12 years. But the team has too many holes to survive the Big 12 rigors and needs a couple of recruiting classes to seriously upgrade the talent level to get into bowl contention.

## FAMILIAR

**FACE:** Coming off a fine junior year, Levels leads a defense that has had three coordinators in as many years.



PAUL NUSELY/TSN

## National Rank 81

**Coach:** Les Miles (1st year)

**Offensive coordinator:** Mike Gundy (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Bill Clay (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** 4-2

**Starters lost:** 7

**Lettermen lost:** 15

**Lettermen returning:** 36

**Site:** Stillwater, Okla.

**Stadium:** Lewis Field (turf, 48,000)

**Last league title won:** 1976

(tie, Big Eight)

**Last bowl appearance:** 1997

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 46

**2000 record:** 3-8; Big 12

**South:** 1-7/5th

**Website:** www.okstate.com

## 2000 Results

at Tulsa, W, 36-26

Southwest Texas, W, 23-0

Southern Mississippi, L, 28-6

at Texas, L, 42-7

at Missouri, L, 24-10

Iowa State, L, 33-26

at Colorado, L, 37-21

Texas A&M, L, 21-16

at Texas Tech, L, 58-0

Baylor, W, 50-22

Oklahoma, L, 12-7

## Schedule

S1—at Southern Mississippi

S8—Louisiana Tech

S15—Northern Arizona

S22—at Texas A&M

O6—Missouri

O13—Texas

O20—at Iowa State

O27—Colorado

N10—Texas Tech

N17—at Baylor

N24—at Oklahoma

## DEPTH CHART Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Rashaun Woods	6-2	185	So.
	Gabe Lindsay	5-8	180	Jr.
T	Kyle Eaton	6-8	305	Jr.
	Jon Hayhurst	6-3	295	So.
G	Jeff Machado	6-3	300	Sr.
	Dustin Vanderhoof	6-3	300	Jr.
C	Jon Vandrell	6-0	285	Sr.
	D.J. Grissom	6-3	345	Sr.
G	Bryan Phillips	6-4	335	Sr.
	Jason Johnson	6-2	305	Sr.
T	Jason Russell	6-5	310	Jr.
	Sam Myers	6-5	325	Fr.*
TE	Mark Milosevich	6-5	240	Fr.*
	Tarrick McGuire	6-3	255	Sr.
WR	Willie Young	6-1	210	Jr.
	T.D. Bryant	5-9	185	Jr.
QB	Aso Pogi	6-3	225	So.
	Jake Hammond	6-2	195	Fr.*
RB	Tatum Bell	5-11	190	So.
	D.D. Cox	5-10	200	Fr.*
FB	Mike Denard	5-11	240	Jr.
	Tim Burrough	6-3	250	So.

## Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Jake Riffe	6-3	235	Sr.
	Kyle Beck	6-2	240	Jr.
T	LaWaylon Brown	6-5	290	Jr.
	Chris Tyler	6-2	290	Sr.
T	Kevin Williams	6-5	275	Jr.
	Clay Coe	6-1	260	Fr.*
E	Greg Richmond	6-2	230	So.
	Thomas Glapion	6-6	250	Jr.
LB	Dwayne Levels	6-2	250	Sr.
	Ron Able	6-0	240	Sr.
LB	Terrence Robinson	6-0	215	Jr.
	Fath Carter	6-2	210	So.
CB	Ricklan Holmes	5-11	195	Jr.
	Chris Cole	5-9	180	So.
CB	Michael Cooper	5-9	195	Sr.
	Kobina Amoo	5-10	180	Jr.
FS	Chris Massey	6-0	205	Jr.
	Robbie Gillem	5-11	210	Sr.
SS	Elbert Craig	6-1	210	So.
	Paul Jones	6-1	200	Jr.
SS	Roger Bombach	5-11	190	Sr.
	Marcus Jones	5-8	195	Sr.

## Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Luke Phillips	6-0	160	So.
P	Scott Elder	6-1	190	Sr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

BIG 12



# 6 Baylor

**Offensive philosophy:** Baylor's thoughts about an offense this fall can be summed up as follows: It wants one. After finishing 114th nationally in that category (and 106th or worse in scoring, rushing and passing) and going through a three-game scoreless drought at one point, the Bears have their fingers in the dike. They're hoping to spread the field with a more wide-open attack. The Bears studied Clemson's shotgun offense and could apply it to isolate some of their few threats.

**Offensive concerns:** The loss of QB Greg Cicero to a broken collarbone in the first quarter of the second game left the Bears scrambling. Five players took snaps from center, none effectively. Cicero must remain healthy for the team to have a chance. Baylor lacks an established playmaker, someone who can turn a 5-yard gain into a 30-yard momentum-changer. Three junior college signees on the offensive line, including 355-pound midterm enrollee Matt Bickel at guard, must produce immediately because the team didn't have a single 100-yard rusher last season.

**Offensive stars:** The 6-4 Cicero is incredibly confident and, by far, the biggest key to the team. Junior WR Reggie Newhouse, who became the school's first receiver in 17 years to catch 40 passes in a season, has the size and enough speed to make a bid for all-league honors if he can avoid the double-teams that hounded him last year. Sophomore TB Jonathan Golden and swift-footed WR Robert Quiroga came on late and could be difference-makers, as could junior college transfer Ray Harrington.

**Defensive philosophy:** With a more experienced unit—six potential starters played as freshmen—coach Kevin Steele could play a more aggressive defense that incorporates more zone blitzes and tighter coverage in the secondary. Look for more deception in pass coverage.

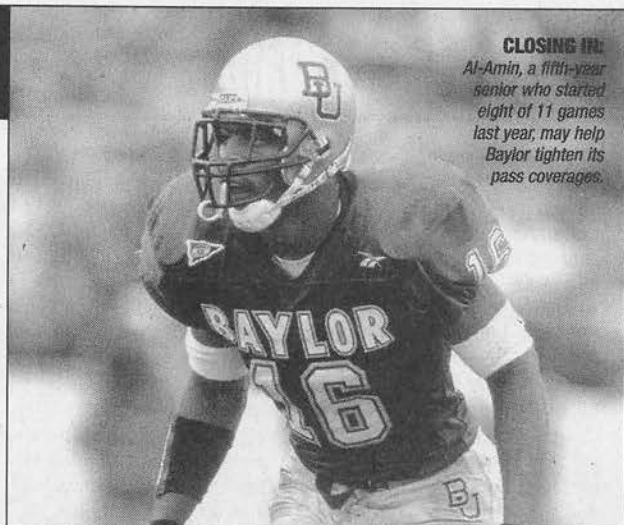
**Defensive concerns:** Foremost in any improvement will be the fall addition of three junior college linemen, including former Hawaii starter Shaun Jackson and Duke and Georgia Military transfer Greg Wade. Opponents ran at will on the Bears for 32 touchdowns and 209 yards a game. Sophomore CBs Bobby Hart and Eric Giddens must grow up in a hurry.

**Defensive stars:** MLB John Garrett is a budding star with his motor and instincts for the ball. DT Kevin Stevenson has been in the lineup for two years and should have a breakout season. Senior FS Samir Al-Amin could crack an all-conference team.

**Special teams:** Despite all the extra practice in games, P Adam Stiles is a long way from perfect. Although he has a strong leg, his technique has been inconsistent and his hang time has been average. Baylor was rarely close enough to attempt field goals, which explains its total of five in nine tries. But Stiles and Daniel Andino are capable kickers. Derrick Cash, a converted linebacker now in the secondary, is a threat to block punts—he blocked two last year—and Hart is a sure-handed punt returner who hardly ever chooses to fair-catch.

**Coaching staff:** Steele juggled some duties on his staff and plucked highly regarded Paul Jette from East Carolina after the former Texas player and assistant served as defensive coordinator at several schools. Despite losing all 16 of his conference games in his three years, Steele has improved his recruiting inside the state. Of his 58 recruits, 54 are Texans. In an amazing display of faith, he was awarded a two-year extension, a sign of the administration's unconditional support. Baylor also renovated its locker room, and its plans to double the size of the weight room were so impressive that Nebraska called for the blueprints.

**Bottom line:** Baylor is still taking baby steps and contemplating stronger strides after making modest, if not tangible, progress during a 2-9 season in which the Bears trailed three Big 12 bowl teams by two touchdowns or less at halftime. Baylor desperately needs to snap an eight-game losing streak and beat Arkansas State in its opener.



**CLOSING IN:** Al-Amin, a fifth-year senior who started eight of 11 games last year, may help Baylor tighten its pass coverages.

ROBERT SEALE/TSN

## National Rank 90

**Coach:** Kevin Steele (3-19, 2 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Greg Meyer (3rd season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Brick Haley (3rd season)

**Offensive scheme:** Pro Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 6

**Lettermen lost:** 21

**Lettermen returning:** 44

**Site:** Waco, Texas

**Stadium:** Floyd Casey (grass, 50,000)

**Last league title won:** 1994 (Southwest, tie)

**Last bowl appearance:** 1994

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 88

**2000 record:** 2-9; Big 12

**South:** 0-8/6th

**Website:**

[www.gobaylorbears.com](http://www.gobaylorbears.com)

### 2000 Results

Texas, L, 62-0

at North Texas, W, 20-7

Minnesota, L, 34-9

South Florida, W, 28-13

Iowa State, L, 31-17

at Texas Tech, L, 28-0

Texas A&M, L, 24-0

at Nebraska, L, 59-0

at Texas, L, 48-14

Oklahoma, L, 56-7

Missouri, L, 47-22

at Oklahoma State, L, 50-22

### Schedule

S8—Arkansas State

S15—at Minnesota

S22—New Mexico

S29—at Iowa State

O6—at Texas A&M

O13—Nebraska

O20—at Oklahoma

O27—Texas Tech

N3—Texas

N10—at Missouri

N17—Oklahoma State

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Reggie Newhouse	6-1	197	Jr.
	Robert Quiroga	6-2	185	So.
T	Jon Erickson	6-5	299	Sr.
	Ryan McDaniel	6-5	288	Fr.*
G	Ethan Kelley	6-2	321	Jr.
	T.J. Helmcamp	6-4	296	Jr.
C	Joe Jackson	6-3	277	Sr.
	Cedric Fields	6-2	295	So.
G	Derek Long	6-6	296	So.
	Derrick Pearcy	6-3	320	Jr.
T	Greg Jerman	6-5	292	Sr.
	Chris Sipes	6-4	306	Fr.*
TE	Andrew Obriotti	6-3	238	Sr.
	Anthony Dozier	6-5	261	Sr.
WR	John Martin	5-11	182	Fr.*
	Bobby Darnell	5-11	188	Jr.
QB	Greg Cicero	6-4	213	Jr.
	Josh Zachry	6-3	183	So.
RB	Chedrick Ricks	5-8	200	Jr.
	Jonathan Golden	6-0	208	So.
FB	Melvin Barnett	6-0	243	Sr.
	Jonathan Evans	6-1	250	Fr.*

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Charles Mann	6-4	252	Jr.
	Khari Long	6-5	240	Fr.*
NT	Travis Hicks	6-3	303	Jr.
	Eric Sims	6-5	291	So.
T	Kevin Stevenson	6-2	274	Jr.
	Demetrio Phillips	6-4	285	Sr.
E	Aaron Lard	6-1	266	So.
	Joe Simmons	6-4	232	So.
OLB	Stephen Sepulveda	6-2	218	So.
	Kelvin Chaison	6-1	243	Jr.
MLB	John Garrett	6-1	235	So.
	Michael Tolbert	6-0	238	Fr.*
OLB	Anthony Simmons	5-11	201	So.
	Jack Wallace	6-3	205	Fr.*
CB	Eric Giddens	5-11	198	So.
	Randy Davis	5-9	173	Jr.
SS	Kyle Staudt	6-3	212	Sr.
	Derrick Cash	5-11	206	So.
FS	Samir Al-Amin	6-1	219	Sr.
	Matt Amendola	5-11	194	So.
CB	Bobby Hart	5-11	183	So.
	Matt Johnson	5-8	182	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Adam Stiles	6-5	236	Sr.
P	Adam Stiles	6-5	236	Sr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# Southeastern

It's up to Florida and LSU to get the league surging again

BY MATT HAYES

**E**ither the rest of the nation is catching up, or the SEC is slowing down. Last season, for the first time in the 51-year history of the coaches' poll, the SEC did not have a team finish in the top 10.

That's not parity. That's parody.

Although the league has produced a national champion twice in the past five years, the shine has dulled the last two seasons.

Florida, the conference king in the 1990s, hasn't beaten Florida State since 1997 and, therefore, hasn't had a memorable finish since. Alabama had its storied tradition—and potential memorable run into the new millennium—sullied by a coach in way over his head.

Tennessee can't beat Florida. Georgia can't beat anyone when anything is on the line. Mississippi State can't find consistency, and Mississippi can't play defense.

Auburn still is trying to recover from probation, and LSU still is trying to recover from Gerry DiNardo. It's enough to make even the hard-core SEC fan begin to wonder.

But maybe that timeless excuse from coaches of teams beating up on each other really is legit. Or maybe Florida, after playing in last season's SEC championship game, or LSU will change things.

**Ascending:** LSU. So the Tigers have been as stable as dot-coms of late. Who cares? This is the season LSU makes its push toward the SEC elite. The Peach Bowl win over surging Georgia Tech last season eased two key areas of concern: The team can survive without Louisiana legend Josh Booty at quarterback, and it can play big in a big game. If senior QB Rohan Davey can stay healthy, the loaded Tigers will be in Atlanta playing for their first SEC championship since claiming a share of the league title in 1988, and coach Nick Saban will finally start earning on that bloated (read: overpaid) contract.

**Descending:** Kentucky. Those four years of high-flying, carefree, be-like-Steve Spurrier days are over. Were they really worth it? Hal Mumme led UK to two bowl trips and one fat, ugly NCAA investigation before being run out of town. New coach Guy Morriss says the Wildcats will be tougher and run the ball more. You want ugly? How about 275-pound QB Jared Lorenzen attempting play-action? That's almost as ugly as those looming NCAA sanctions that could cripple the program for years.

**Dream schedule:** LSU. The first goal of the Tigers is to win the West, and the schedule sets up a division run. Defending division champions Florida and Auburn come to Tiger Stadium, and three of the final four

games—Mississippi, Middle Tennessee and Arkansas—are in Baton Rouge. Considering the final, frantic push of last year's division race, that stretch of games could be a huge factor.

**Nightmare schedule:**

Tennessee. Give the Vols credit. At least they attempt to play a challenging non-conference schedule, unlike the rest of the league. UT has non-conference games against Syracuse and Memphis and at Notre Dame. The rotating league schedule also has the Vols traveling to Florida, Alabama and Arkansas and brings Georgia and West Division favorite LSU to Knoxville.

**Best matchup:** As if the Georgia game didn't already hold enough significance for Florida, the Gators get more motivation with the arrival of coach Mark Richt in Athens. It was Richt's offense at Florida State that toyed with Spurrier's defense for so many years and led to all of those key wins. Georgia got rid of Jim Donnan because he couldn't beat Florida and Georgia Tech on a regular basis. Richt's October 27 debut in The World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party is against Spurrier's best team since the Gators won the national title in 1996.

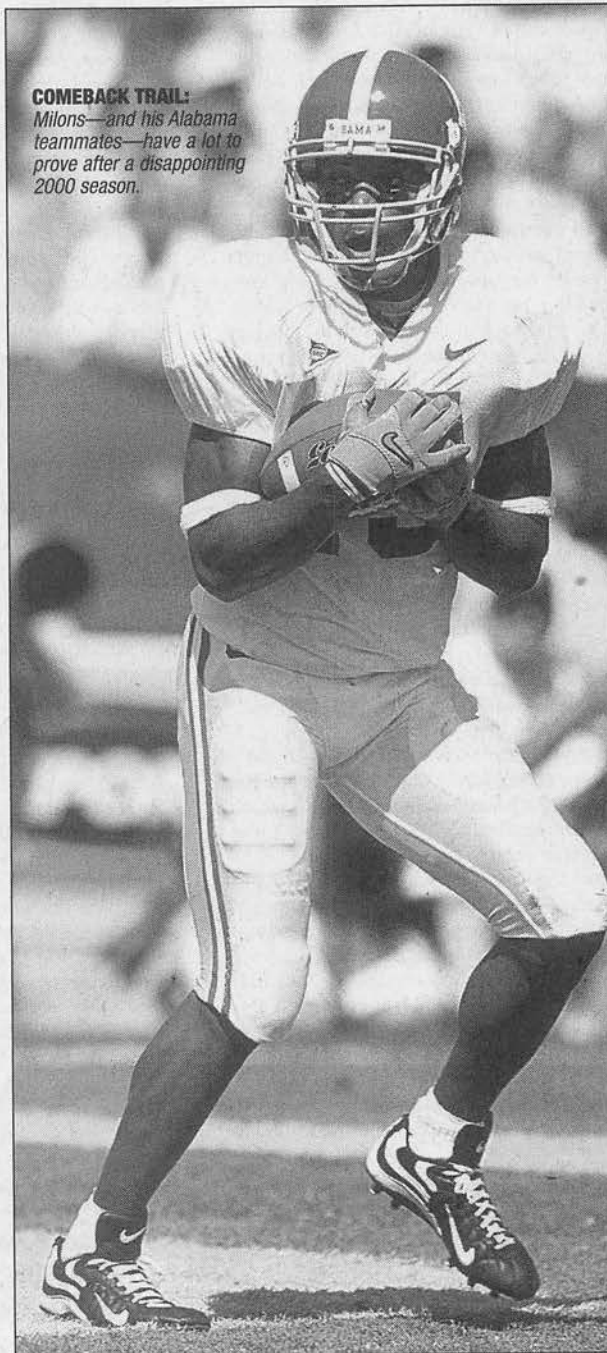
**Ugliest matchup:**

Murray State at Mississippi. Nothing quite like a Division I-AA team to get QB Eli Manning's confidence going. Cupcake scheduling in the SEC has officially hit an all-time low. The Rebels would be better off scheduling their September 1 season opener against Jackson (Miss.) Province High, which probably has better athletes than Murray State.

**Upset of the year:** Rivalry anyone? The battle of Nashville on August 30 is going to be

## COMEBACK TRAIL:

Milons—and his Alabama teammates—have a lot to prove after a disappointing 2000 season.



JOHN LORDES FOR TSN

much tougher than Vanderbilt could have imagined. Middle Tennessee has speed and motivation and is well coached, and Vandy annually starts slow. Look at the bright side, Vandy fans. Duke and I-AA Richmond still are on the schedule.

**Bowl bound:** Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, LSU, Auburn, Mississippi State, Alabama. The way SEC commish Roy Kramer works the bowl committees, you



never know how many SEC teams are going to find their way to the postseason. If The Czar can wield his power again, Ole Miss may get in, too.

**Biggest shoes to fill:** The line to replace Travis Henry, Tennessee's all-time leading rusher, includes a seldom-used senior and a group of former high school stars. Travis Stephens has played well in spots, but expect one of UT's heralded recruits—possibly Jabari Davis—to win the job. Only this time, don't expect UT coaches to hold back a freshman in the Florida game, as they did in 1997 with Jamal Lewis. The Vols' offense revolves around a bruising running game, and Davis (5-11, 230) has the size and speed to have an impact.

**Most overrated player:** It seems as if they waited forever for Jasper Sanks at Georgia. Now he can't even break the starting lineup. He once was considered the best high school tailback in the country, but his legacy at Georgia consists of two critical fumbles in losses to Florida and Georgia Tech in 1999. He has moved to fullback for his senior season, and those destined days of glory may be long gone.

**Most underrated player:** He lost his confidence, then lost his edge. Now Freddie Milons, a year removed from the upheaval of Alabama's lost season, is primed for a big return. He's still one of the most dangerous wide receivers in college football, even though no one really remembers anymore. He's in the best shape of his career, he's motivated and he's playing for NFL dollars. Sit back and watch it all play out.

**Best coach:** Love him or despise him, Spurrier is the coach everyone—with the exception of Florida State fans—wants. He's brash, he's bold, he's innovative. So what if he can't understand why people don't like him? Joe Paterno says no one manages game day like Spurrier, whose offensive mind and gut-check style fuel the Gators.

**Best staff:** There are higher-paid coaches and schools with better facilities. But for the total package, no one gets it done like the staff Jackie Sherrill has assembled at Mississippi State. It's not easy to recruit to Starkville, yet Sherrill gets quality players, and they graduate. They also win like no other teams in Mississippi State history. The Bulldogs have won 26 games over the past

three years, and Sherrill is the winningest coach in school history. Joe Lee Dunn is one of the nation's best defensive coordinators, and running backs coach Glenn Davis and offensive line coach Jerry Fremin are two of the most underrated assistants in the SEC.

**Coach on the hot seat:** Dennis Franchione. The NCAA is clearing out a spot for Alabama in its doghouse, and the Tide has a brewing quarterback controversy. Moreover, Auburn is set to pounce on Alabama's problems on the recruiting trail. The Tide fans, however, don't really ask much of new coach Franchione. Just be like Bear. And beat Auburn. Welcome to the real world, Dennis. This isn't the WAC anymore.

**Best bets:** Lock of the year in the SEC: By the time September rolls into October, two quarterbacks—Rex Grossman and Brock Berlin—will have started at Florida. And Spurrier will have another quarterback controversy. ... Auburn, primed for a step back with key losses, will be in the thick of the West Division race in November. It's not that the Tigers are that good; the West Division is that balanced. ... Arkansas TB Cedric Cobbs, who missed most of last season with a shoulder injury, will lead the SEC in rushing. ... Florida will beat Tennessee. Again. Then it will lose at LSU, throwing open the East Division race. ... Richt's Bulldogs won't beat Florida or Georgia Tech or Tennessee. He won't be fired, either. ... South Carolina won't match its victory total from last season (eight) but still will play in a bowl game.

**Odds and ends:** Five years ago, 17 Mississippi State players attained Iron Dawg status as top performers in seven offseason lifting and running categories. This spring, 62 players made the list. Still not sure the Bulldogs are the real deal? ... Arkansas will christen the \$105 million renovation of Razorback Stadium on September 8 against Tennessee. The Vols, who play at Florida a week later, hung 63 points on the Hogs last year. Tennessee could be 1-2 overall, 0-2 in league play and out of the East Division race three weeks into this season. ... A sleeper candidate for Georgia quarterback: walk-on Brent Rickman, a former Furman star who spent six months in Africa doing mission work before enrolling at Georgia.

## ALL-LEAGUE

FIRST TEAM				Offense		
Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.		
WR	Jabar Gaffney, Florida	6-1	191	So.		
WR	Josh Reed, LSU	5-11	200	Jr.		
TE	Robert Royal, LSU	6-5	231	Sr.		
T	Mike Pearson, Florida	6-7	291	Jr.		
T	Jon Stinchcomb, Georgia	6-6	278	Jr.		
G	Kevin Breedlove, Georgia	6-4	311	Jr.		
G	Fred Weary, Tennessee	6-4	301	Sr.		
C	Ben Claxton, Mississippi	6-3	281	Jr.		
QB	Casey Clausen, Tennessee	6-4	210	So.		
RB	Cedric Cobbs, Arkansas	6-1	228	So.		
RB	Earnest Graham, Florida	5-9	213	Jr.		

Defense			
E	Alex Brown, Florida	6-4	262 Sr.
E	Kindal Moorehead, Alabama	6-3	293 Jr.
T	John Henderson, Tennessee	6-7	290 Sr.
T	DeMarco McNeil, Auburn	6-1	301 So.
LB	Trev Faulk, LSU	6-3	225 Jr.
LB	Mario Haggan, Mississippi State	6-3	253 Jr.
LB	Saleem Rasheed, Alabama	6-3	217 Jr.
CB	Tim Wansley, Georgia	5-9	172 Sr.
CB	Lito Sheppard, Florida	5-10	189 Jr.
S	Ryan Clark, LSU	5-11	185 Sr.
S	Pig Prather, Mississippi State	6-2	195 Sr.

Specialists			
K	Jeff Chandler, Florida	6-2	217 Sr.
P	Damon Duval, Auburn	6-0	184 Jr.
KR	Freddie Milons, Alabama	5-11	191 Sr.

Players of the year			
Offense: Jabar Gaffney, WR, Florida			
Defense: John Henderson, T, Tennessee			

SECOND TEAM				Offense		
Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.		
WR	Terrence Edwards, Georgia	6-1	165	Jr.		
WR	Donte Stallworth, Tennessee	6-1	190	Jr.		
TE	Randy McMichael, Georgia	6-4	228	Jr.		
T	Kendall Simmons, Auburn	6-3	319	Sr.		
T	Terrence Metcalf, Mississippi	6-3	315	Sr.		
G	Dwayne Pierce, LSU	6-3	316	Sr.		
G	Kenny Sandlin, Arkansas	6-3	319	Sr.		
C	Curt McGill, Georgia	6-4	275	Sr.		
QB	Rohan Davey, LSU	6-3	239	Sr.		
RB	LaBrandon Toefield, LSU	6-4	224	So.		
RB	Dicenzo Miller, Mississippi State	5-10	207	Sr.		

Defense			
E	Will Overstreet, Tennessee	6-4	260 Sr.
E	Jarvis Green, LSU	6-3	265 Sr.
T	Jarret Johnson, Alabama	6-4	281 Jr.
T	Dorsett Davis, Mississippi State	6-6	314 Sr.
LB	Kalimba Edwards, South Carolina	6-6	262 Sr.
LB	Boss Bailey, Georgia	6-4	218 Jr.
LB	Andra Davis, Florida	6-1	250 Sr.
CB	Sheldon Brown, South Carolina	5-10	192 Sr.
CB	Andre Lott, Tennessee	5-11	185 Sr.
S	Marquand Manuel, Florida	6-0	202 Sr.
S	Ken Hamlin, Arkansas	6-2	193 So.

Specialists			
K	Alex Walls, Tennessee	6-1	175 Jr.
P	Richie Butler, Arkansas	6-1	222 Jr.
KR	Lito Sheppard, Florida	5-10	189 Jr.

Newcomers of the year			
Offense: Jabari Davis, RB, Tennessee			
Defense: Korey Banks, CB, Mississippi State			

## UNIT RANKINGS

	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall		
ALABAMA	7	3	6	6	2	3	7	5	7	10
ARKANSAS	6	12	7	9	9	9	9	9	9	8
AUBURN	11	11	9	11	6	8	8	8	5	5
FLORIDA	1	2	3	1	5	5	1	2	1	1
GEORGIA	8	5	5	5	8	2	4	6	6	11
KENTUCKY	10	7	11	7	11	12	12	12	10	12
LSU	3	1	4	2	3	1	3	3	4	6
MISSISSIPPI	9	10	10	10	10	11	10	10	11	7
MISSISSIPPI ST.	2	6	2	3	4	4	2	1	3	2
SOUTH CAROLINA	5	8	8	8	7	6	5	7	8	4
TENNESSEE	4	4	1	4	1	7	6	4	2	3
VANDERBILT	12	9	12	12	12	10	11	11	12	9



## PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

### Offense

#### Jabar Gaffney, WR, Florida

Jabar Gaffney will make the 2001 Florida media guide. That's progress. If there were an NCAA category for most production by a player not even listed in a team's media brochure, Gaffney would have set the record last fall.

Stuff it to say Gaffney didn't figure largely in the receivers rotation when Steve Spurrier was drawing up his preseason depth chart.

Gaffney, THE SPORTING NEWS national freshman of the year in 2000, came out of nowhere to have one of the most productive seasons ever by a Florida receiver. His 71 catches were the third-best total in Florida history. His 14 touchdown catches and 1,184 yards were Division I freshman records.

Want more? His six consecutive 100-yard games tied a school record. He was voted Florida's MVP by his teammates.

Gaffney had himself to blame for being a non-entity going into the season. A theft charge nearly got him

kicked off the team. At the pleading of his father, former Florida letterman Derrick Gaffney, Spurrier let Gaffney stay but yanked his scholarship.

Gaffney's dream to play for the Gators was alive, but barely. He almost didn't make it to begin with. The Jacksonville native had to pass on several other scholarships waiting for Florida's late offer.

"Jabar Gaffney is the Gator who wouldn't go away," says Spurrier. "Thank the Lord we gave him a second chance."

Gaffney capitalized on it. His controversial touchdown reception with 14 seconds remaining lifted Florida to a 27-23 win at Tennessee.

Once he got rolling, he had touchdown catches in eight consecutive games. By midseason, Spurrier recognized Gaffney was the Gators' best receiver. "He catches better in games than he does in practice," Spurrier says. "He's a game player, and as a coach, that's what you have to find out." —Mike Strange

### Defense

#### John Henderson, T, Tennessee

After being on the business end of a whipping by Nebraska's offensive line in the 2000 Fiesta Bowl, Tennessee's John Henderson got mad. He channeled his anger into making himself bigger, stronger, better. Then he came out of nowhere and won the Outland Trophy last season.

In the 2001 Cotton Bowl, Henderson was neutralized by double-teams and Kansas State blocking schemes, and the Vols took another beating. What's he going to do in the anger-channeling encore department this year?

"You just try to get yourself better and win it again," says Henderson, who paced Tennessee with 11 tackles for losses, 12 sacks and three fumble recoveries last season.

If Henderson says he'll get himself better, you can book it. His work ethic makes coach Phillip Fulmer and the rest of the staff get misty-eyed. When your best player is your hardest worker, the leadership quotient is priceless.

"John has been blessed with talent," says defensive coordinator John Chavis, "but hard work got him where he is now. ... He's a guy who will go out there and get it done, not just talk about it."

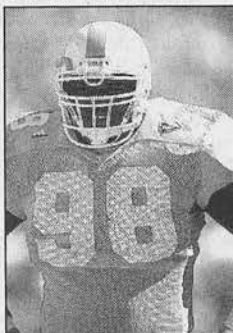
The 6-7, 290-pound Henderson has all the tools—strength, quick feet, intensity. At least one NFL draft guide projects him to be the No. 1 pick in the 2002 draft.

To prevent opponents from scheming to avoid Henderson this season, Tennessee plans to move him around. Some downs, he'll line up at an end. And if teams sell out to neutralize him with double-teams, Henderson, who ranked third on the team last season with 70 tackles, says they'll pay a price.

"That's great," he says with a grin. "Then my middle linebacker will make all the plays, like Ray Lewis." —M.S.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

## 2000 INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### RUSHING returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Rudi Johnson, Auburn, Jr.	12	321	1,567	4.8	13	130.6
2. Travis Henry, Tennessee, Sr.	11	253	1,314	5.2	11	119.5
3. Derek Watson, South Carolina, So.	11	187	1,066	5.7	11	96.9
4. Denczo Miller, Mississippi State, Jr.	11	160	1,005	6.3	10	91.4
5. Dontae Walker, Mississippi State, So.	11	148	795	5.4	9	72.3
6. Deuce McAllister, Mississippi, Sr.	11	159	767	4.8	14	69.7
7. LaBrandon Toefield, LSU, Fr.	10	165	682	4.1	5	68.2
8. Robert Gillespie, Florida, Jr.	11	125	678	5.4	5	61.6
9. Earnest Graham, Florida, So.	12	121	676	5.6	8	56.3
10. Ahmaad Galloway, Alabama, So.	11	137	659	4.8	7	59.9

### PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Rating
1. Jared Lorenzen, Kentucky, Fr.	11	559	321	.574	21	3,687	6.6	19	116.5
2. Greg Zolman, Vanderbilt, Jr.	11	355	187	.527	14	2,441	6.9	13	114.6
3. Ben Leard, Auburn, Sr.	12	319	193	.605	10	2,158	6.8	12	123.5
4. Josh Booty, LSU, Jr.	11	290	145	.500	15	2,121	7.3	17	120.4
5. Phil Petty, South Carolina, Jr.	11	296	161	.544	9	2,110	7.1	7	116.0
6. Romaro Miller, Mississippi, Sr.	11	295	161	.546	12	2,012	6.8	18	123.9
7. Wayne Madkin, Miss. St., Jr.	11	246	138	.561	8	1,908	7.8	8	125.5
8. Rex Grossman, Florida, Fr.	11	212	131	.618	7	1,866	8.8	21	161.8
9. Jesse Palmer, Florida, Sr.	10	223	116	.520	4	1,653	7.4	11	127.0
10. Andrew Zow, Alabama, Jr.	11	249	120	.482	14	1,561	6.3	6	97.6

### RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Jabar Gaffney, Florida, Fr.	12	71	1,182	14	5.9	16.7
2. Josh Reed, LSU, So.	11	65	1,127	10	5.9	17.3
3. Dan Stricker, Vanderbilt, So.	11	61	994	5	5.6	16.3
4. Quentin McCord, Kentucky, Sr.	11	45	799	6	4.1	17.8
5. Reche Caldwell, Florida, So.	12	49	760	6	4.1	15.5
6. Boo Williams, Arkansas, Sr.	11	52	739	7	4.7	14.2
7. Derek Smith, Kentucky, So.	11	50	716	5	4.5	14.3
8. Terrence Edwards, Georgia, So.	11	53	704	4	4.8	13.3
9. Cedrick Wilson, Tennessee, Sr.	11	62	681	12	5.6	11.0
10. Grant Heard, Mississippi, Sr.	11	44	655	9	4.0	14.9

## TEAM STATISTICS

### OFFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Mississippi State (25)	193.8	1. Kentucky (2)	335.4	1. Kentucky (11)	445.5
2. Auburn (38)	163.3	2. Florida (8)	308.2	2. Florida (24)	418.7
3. Tennessee (39)	162.7	3. LSU (29)	245.3	3. Mississippi State (46)	388.4
4. South Carolina (47)	157.0	4. Vanderbilt (47)	224.2	4. LSU (53)	376.4
5. Arkansas (53)	150.3	5. Georgia (55)	215.0	5. Tennessee (57)	373.2
6. Mississippi (58)	146.8	6. South Carolina (60)	210.9	6. South Carolina (60)	367.9
7. Alabama (66)	137.6	7. Tennessee (62)	210.5	7. Auburn (70)	356.7
8. Georgia (72)	131.9	8. Mississippi (68)	200.2	8. Mississippi (74)	347.0
9. LSU (73)	131.1	9. Auburn (77)	193.3	9. Georgia (75)	346.9
10. Florida (91)	110.5	10. Mississippi State (78)	192.5	10. Arkansas (86)	324.5
11. Kentucky (92)	110.1	11. Arkansas (89)	174.2	11. Vanderbilt (89)	320.7
12. Vanderbilt (102)	96.6	12. Alabama (91)	171.7	12. Alabama (100)	309.4

### DEFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Tennessee (3)	74.3	1. Arkansas (2)	153.0	1. Arkansas (12)	292.1
2. Mississippi State (13)	97.5	2. Mississippi (20)	187.6	2. Tennessee (13)	294.5
3. Auburn (15)	98.3	3. South Carolina (24)	193.0	3. Auburn (14)	303.3
4. Georgia (25)	111.1	4. Georgia (35)	202.5	4. South Carolina (16)	308.1
5. South Carolina (28)	115.1	5. Auburn (41)	205.0	5. Georgia (19)	313.6
6. Alabama (32)	125.4	6. Alabama (55)	211.6	6. Alabama (35)	337.0
7. Florida (39)	133.1	7. Vanderbilt (56)	212.6	7. Mississippi State (36)	339.6
8. LSU (41)	134.7	8. Florida (57)	212.9	8. Florida (42)	346.0
9. Arkansas (46)	139.1	9. LSU (60)	216.2	9. LSU (46)	350.9
10. Kentucky (70)	163.2	10. Tennessee (69)	220.2	10. Mississippi (59)	365.9
11. Mississippi (80)	178.3	11. Mississippi State (98)	242.0	11. Vanderbilt (78)	390.9
12. Vanderbilt (80)	178.3	12. Kentucky (99)	242.7	12. Kentucky (87)	405.9

Statistics do not include bowl games



## 1 Florida

### National Rank 2

**Coach:** Steve Spurrier (112-25-1, 11 years; 132-38-2 overall, 14 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Steve Spurrier  
**Defensive coordinator:** Jon Hoke (3rd season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 6  
**Lettermen lost:** 21  
**Lettermen returning:** 54  
**Site:** Gainesville, Fla.  
**Stadium:** Florida Field (grass, 83,000)  
**Last league title won:** 2000  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1990  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 8  
**2000 record:** 10-3 (lost to Miami in Sugar Bowl); SEC East: 8-1/1st  
**Website:** www.gatorzone.com

#### 2000 Results

Ball State, W, 40-19  
 Middle Tennessee St., W, 55-0  
 at Tennessee, W, 27-23  
 Kentucky, W, 59-31  
 at Mississippi State, L, 47-35  
 LSU, W, 41-9  
 Auburn, W, 38-7  
 Georgia, W, 34-23  
 at Vanderbilt, W, 43-20  
 South Carolina, W, 41-21  
 at Florida State, L, 30-7  
 Auburn, W, 28-6  
 Miami, L, 37-20

#### Schedule

S1—Marshall  
 S8—Louisiana-Monroe  
 S15—Tennessee  
 S22—at Kentucky  
 S29—Mississippi State  
 O6—at LSU  
 O13—at Auburn  
 O27—Georgia\*  
 N3—Vanderbilt  
 N10—at South Carolina  
**N17—Florida State**  
 \*at Jacksonville, Fla.

### Game of the year

**Nov. 17—Florida State**  
 How many times have we seen this? Florida vs. Florida State has developed into the Game of the Year in college football, not just The Game for both teams. This time, the Gators could be undefeated and setting the stage for a trip to the Rose Bowl to play for the national championship when the Seminoles come to The Swamp.

### Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The offense might be explosive if no quarterback controversy develops. If tackles emerge, the defense will have lots of teeth.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★  
**Receivers:** ★★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★  
**Secondary:** ★★★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

#### DEPTH CHART

##### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jabar Gaffney	6-1	191	So.
	Carlos Perez	6-0	190	So.
T	Mike Pearson	6-7	291	Jr.
	Bobby Williams	6-6	280	Fr.*
G	Shannon Snell	6-3	302	So.
	Erik Strange	6-4	310	Sr.
C	Zac Zedalis	6-6	313	Sr.
	David Jorgensen	6-4	284	Jr.
G	Thomas Moody	6-3	302	Sr.
	David Kearley	6-4	306	Jr.
T	Max Starks	6-7	360	So.
	Chad Tidwell	6-5	323	Fr.*
TE	Aaron Walker	6-6	240	Jr.
	Ben Troupe	6-5	245	So.
WR	Reche Caldwell	6-0	199	Jr.
	Taylor Jacobs	6-0	182	Jr.
QB	Rex Grossman	6-1	216	So.
	Brock Berlin	6-1	202	So.
RB	Earnest Graham	5-9	213	Jr.
	Robert Gillespie	5-9	190	Sr.
FB	Rob Roberts	6-2	250	Sr.
	Ray Snell	5-11	223	So.

##### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Clint Mitchell	6-7	245	So.
	Darrell Lee	6-4	237	So.
T	Ian Scott	6-2	296	So.
	Arpedge Rolle	6-1	264	Jr.
T	Tron LaFavor	6-2	265	Jr.
	Bryan Savelio	6-2	288	Jr.
E	Alex Brown	6-4	262	Sr.
	Kennard Ellis	6-2	238	Sr.
OLB	Mike Nattiel	5-11	220	Jr.
	Matt Farrior	6-1	225	So.
MLB	Andra Davis	6-1	250	Sr.
	Travis Carroll	6-4	232	Sr.
OLB	Byron Hardmon	6-1	223	Jr.
	M. Oquendo-Johnson	6-4	215	Jr.
CB	Lito Sheppard	5-10	189	Jr.
	Keiwan Ratliff	5-11	180	So.
SS	Marquand Manuel	6-0	202	Sr.
	Guss Scott	5-10	190	So.
FS	Todd Johnson	6-1	193	Jr.
	Daryl Dixon	5-10	196	Jr.
CB	Robert Cromartie	5-8	187	Sr.
	Bennie Alexander	5-9	176	Sr.

##### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Jeff Chandler	6-2	217	Sr.
P	Matt Piotrowicz	5-10	204	Fr.*

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

**Offensive philosophy:** Not many teams can throw it and catch it with coach Steve Spurrier's Gators. As long as he has enough receivers (when hasn't he?), Spurrier will spread a defense and pick it apart with timing routes. Under Spurrier's leadership, the Gators became the only offense in modern collegiate history to score 500 points in a season four straight years (1993-96). Any high school quarterback who signs on with Florida knows he will be tutored by a master, but he better have iron nerves. Spurrier, more than any other coach, won't hesitate to yank his starter and go to the bullpen. He has been known to alternate quarterbacks even from one play to the next. With two talented youngsters, Rex Grossman and Brock Berlin, 2001 is likely to unfold as another saga of musical quarterbacks.

**Offensive stars:** Grossman figured to be third string going into last season but uprooted Jesse Palmer and held off Berlin to end up as the SEC's pass-efficiency leader with a 161.8 rating, third best in the nation. Grossman had 21 touchdown passes and only seven interceptions, but he might not be the starter. His spotty performance in a Sugar Bowl loss to Miami opened the door for Berlin to make a move in spring practice. Berlin, a high school phenom who threw only 27 passes last year, outplayed Grossman in spring drills and could win the job when two-a-days open. Grossman has the game experience and quick release, but Spurrier likes Berlin's decision-making. Dwarfing Grossman's rags-to-riches story was freshman WR Jabar Gaffney, who came out of nowhere to lead the SEC with 71 catches for 1,182 yards. Gaffney has had his share of off-field problems and had better hope he doesn't cross the line again. Reche Caldwell (49 catches last year) gives the Gators a second big-play target and is primed for a big season. Junior LT Mike Pearson is the SEC's best lineman and one of the best in the nation. He'll make it tough to get to the quarterback's backside. If Spurrier wants to enhance a running game that ranked 10th in the SEC last year, Robert Gillespie and Earnest Graham each averaged 5 yards a carry last year, and former high school All-American Willie Green emerged in spring drills.

**Offensive concerns:** Kenyatta Walker's decision to go pro left a big hole at right tackle. Max Starks, a gigantic (6-7, 360) sophomore, made excellent progress during the spring, but there are concerns about his mobility. He'll be pushed in the fall by signees Maurice Mitchell and Jonathan Colon. Center is still unsettled. Oft-injured Zac Zedalis is giving it another try but hasn't played in two years. Thomas Moody will move from left guard to right guard in place of departed Leon Hires so the Gators won't have two first-year starters on the same side. Shannon Snell, who coaches believe will develop into a star, is a likely bet to get the left guard spot. A spring injury to FB Rob Roberts raises something of a question mark at that position. He was ticketed to replace Rod Frazier.

**Defensive philosophy:** With nine starters and 18 of the top 22 players back, coordinator Jon Hoke enters his third season at Florida with his deepest and most experienced unit. The Gators run a 4-3 front and aren't afraid to leave the cornerbacks on the man-to-man island and gamble on getting to the quarterback. Look for Florida to improve on last year's totals of 346 yards and 19.7 points allowed per game. One number that will be hard to improve on is turnover ratio. Florida ranked second in the nation at plus-19, with the defense coming up with 24 interceptions and 16 fumble recoveries. The 40 turnovers led the nation and kept Florida from being embarrassed at times defensively.

**Defensive stars:** DE Alex Brown, a Lombardi Award semifinalist, returns and has a shot at All-American honors if he can avoid disappearing from time to time. He can dominate games but still needs work on consistency. His quickness makes him almost unblockable at times and can affect an opponent's game plan in terms of protec-

### TSNumber

# 9

Minimum number of wins Florida has finished with in each of its 11 seasons under Steve Spurrier. Nebraska and Florida State

are the other schools with such a run over that span. Expect the Gators to extend that streak, as they should be in the national championship hunt. The Gators, who have won at least 10 games eight times under Spurrier, won their only national title in 1996.



tion packages. Lito Sheppard, a junior cornerback, also has a shot to be All-American and could turn out to be one of Florida's all-time great defensive backs. He grabbed six interceptions last year to tie for the SEC lead. The Gators are confident turning Sheppard loose in man-to-man coverage. Todd Johnson divided his starts last fall between free safety and strong safety and ended up All-SEC in his first year as a starter. The move to free safety made sense because Johnson seems to have a nose for the ball, picking off five passes and recovering four fumbles. Andra Davis is a man with a mission to make up for lost time. He was poised for stardom last year at middle linebacker but tore up a knee in the season opener. The 254-pound Davis is back in pads, the knee looks good and he has acquired a new sense of maturity after becoming a first-time father.

**Defensive concerns:** With nine starters back, there aren't many concerns, but when the only four guys missing from last year's two-deep are all defensive tackles, that could present a problem. Gerard "Big Money" Warren took his game to the NFL. Senior Derrick Chambers and backups Buck Gurley and Thomas Pittman are also gone. So, who steps in? Tron LaFavor is a good bet at one tackle, but at 265 pounds, he's not the physical presence the 308-pound Warren was. One newcomer who has designs on a starting job is Bryan Savelio, a junior college All-American at Mesa (Ariz.) Community College. The Gators are counting heavily on him. Sophomore Ian Scott, a 296-pounder who had ankle problems much of last year, could develop into a star. Undersized reserves Chris Reynolds and Arpedge Rolle will have to prove they are capable of being part of the rotation, and redshirt freshman Kenny Parker—a 300-pounder who missed spring drills with back surgery—has potential.

**Special teams:** All-time Florida field-goal leader Jeff Chandler was granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA, which means one less worry for Spurrier. Chandler hit 16 of 19 attempts last year and was impressive from long range, going 5-of-7 from 40 yards and beyond, with a long of 54. Punting is up in the air with the departure of SEC leader Alan Rhine. Redshirt freshman Matt Piotrowicz will get first shot. Opponents would do well to punt away from Sheppard, who gained an SEC-best 14 yards per return and took two all the way. The Gators have had problems of late in kick coverage and must get better production.

**Coaching staff:** When Rod Broadway left, Spurrier hired Ricky Hunley from Missouri to coach the defensive line. A former NFL player, Hunley brings a reputation as an ace recruiter. He worked the state of Florida for the Tigers, so he'll hit the ground running. He also worked with Hoke at Missouri, so he knows the drill. Graduate assistant Jerry Odom moves up to work with inside linebackers after the departure of Bob Sanders. Spurrier oversees the



**TIME TO SHINE:** With new starters inside, ends such as Brown have to step up.

offense, but Buddy Teevens has the title of passing game coordinator, and offensive line coach Jimmy Ray Stephens is the running game coordinator.

**Bottom line:** On paper, Florida appears to have the ingredients for a national championship campaign. The schedule is also favorable, with both Tennessee and Florida State visiting The Swamp. The Vols haven't won in Gainesville since 1971. However, Florida has to prove it can handle some of the intangibles, such as playing smart in big games. The Gators have a history of committing dumb penalties and have faded at the end of the past two seasons, losing their last three games in 1999 and two of the last three in 2000. That doesn't reflect a confident team. Of course, Florida was one of the youngest teams in the SEC last year and won the title anyway. This year, the Gators won't be so young, and, if they can replace big-timers such as Warren on defense and Walker on offense, they could very well smell the roses in Pasadena.

SAM GREENWOOD FOR TSN



# 2 Tennessee

**National Rank**  
**8**

**Coach:** Phillip Fulmer (84-18, 9 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Randy Sanders (3rd season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** John Chavis (7th season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 8  
**Lettermen lost:** 19  
**Lettermen returning:** 50  
**Site:** Knoxville, Tenn.  
**Stadium:** Neyland (grass, 104,000)  
**Last league title won:** 1998  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1988  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 10  
**2000 record:** 8-4 (lost to Kansas State in Cotton Bowl); SEC East: 5-3/T2nd  
**Website:** www.utsports.com

## 2000 Results

Southern Miss, W, 19-16  
Florida, L, 23-27  
Louisiana-Monroe, W, 70-3 at LSU, L 38-31 (OT)  
at Georgia, L, 21-10  
Alabama, W, 20-10  
at South Carolina, W, 17-14  
at Memphis, W, 19-17  
Arkansas, W, 63-20  
Kentucky, W, 59-20  
at Vanderbilt, W, 28-26  
Kansas State, L, 21-35

## Schedule

S1—Syracuse  
S8—at Arkansas  
S15—at Florida  
S29—LSU  
O6—Georgia  
O20—at Alabama  
O27—South Carolina  
N3—at Notre Dame  
N10—Memphis  
N17—at Kentucky  
N24—Vanderbilt

## Game of the year

**Sept. 8—at Arkansas**  
Traditionally, an open date for the Vols before the early-season showdown with Florida hasn't led to much success in Gainesville. This year, Tennessee will go the other pre-Florida route with a tough road test at Arkansas. The Vols can't afford a slip here against a team they have struggled with at times over the past few seasons.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

Strong line play looks like it will key the Vols, who suffered growing pains last season while breaking in lots of new talent.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★  
**Receivers:** ★★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★  
**Secondary:** ★★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

Offense				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Eric Parker	6-0	172	Sr.
	Leonard Scott	5-11	170	Jr.
T	Reggie Coleman	6-5	315	Sr.
	Sean Young	6-7	305	So.
G	Fred Weary	6-4	301	Sr.
	Terriea Smalls	6-3	310	So.
C	Scott Wells	6-2	287	So.
	Jason Respert	6-3	305	So.
G	Will Offenheuse	6-8	320	Jr.
	Chavis Smith	6-3	285	So.
T	Anthony Herrera	6-4	300	Jr.
	Victor McClure	6-4	290	Fr.*
TE	John Finlayson	6-4	275	Sr.
	Jason Witten	6-5	265	So.
WR	Donte Stallworth	6-1	190	Jr.
	Kelley Washington	6-3	215	Fr.
QB	Casey Clausen	6-4	210	So.
	Joey Mathews	6-3	215	Jr.
RB	Travis Stephens	5-9	190	Sr.
	Corey Larkins*	5-8	190	Fr.
FB	Will Bartholomew	6-0	232	Sr.
	Troy Fleming	6-2	220	So.

Defense				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Bernard Jackson	6-4	255	Sr.
	Omari Hand	6-5	255	Jr.
T	John Henderson	6-7	290	Sr.
	Rashad Moore	6-4	290	Jr.
T	Albert Haynesworth	6-6	310	Jr.
	Edward Kendrick	6-4	265	Jr.
E	Will Overstreet	6-4	260	Sr.
	Constantin Ritzmann	6-4	252	Jr.
OLB	Eddie Moore	6-0	210	Jr.
	Andre James	6-2	218	Sr.
MLB	D. Stevenson	6-0	220	Sr.
	Robert Peace	6-3	230	So.
OLB	Kevin Burnett	6-3	214	So.
	Tony Campbell	6-3	191	So.
CB	Andre Lott	5-11	185	Sr.
	Willie Miles	6-0	175	Sr.
SS	Steven Marsh	6-0	180	Jr.
	Mark Jones	5-9	171	So.
FS	Rashad Baker	5-11	180	So.
	Tad Golden	6-1	190	Sr.
CB	Teddy Gaines	6-0	175	Sr.
	Jabari Greer	5-10	170	So.

Special Teams				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Alex Walls	6-1	175	Jr.
P	Dustin Colquitt	6-2	186	Fr.*

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

**Offensive philosophy:** Tennessee has long built its offense on balance and it has been darn successful. With sophomore QB Casey Clausen in full stride, the Vols won't be afraid to open the offense, provided the receiving corps proves capable. Opposing defenses can usually count on two things: the fullback won't carry more than one time a game and the tight end will be a glorified offensive tackle. The latter could change to some degree because sophomore TE Jason Witten is too athletic to ignore. To justify taking him away from defensive end, the offense has to utilize him as a target for Clausen. After a woodshed whipping by Kansas State in the Cotton Bowl, coach Phillip Fulmer is hoping his offensive line can toughen up and play more smash-mouth-style in the running game. For the Vols to be successful, the line must lead the way.

**Offensive stars:** Clausen, at this early stage of his career, is ahead of Peyton Manning's passing numbers. After taking over at midseason, Clausen, a true freshman last year, won his first six games as a starter. Then Kansas State's veteran defense ate him up—and everything Orange—in the Cotton Bowl. He can make all the throws and, prior to the Cotton Bowl debacle, was picked off only six times in 194 attempts. Completing 62.4-percent was impressive for a rookie straight out of high school, and his pass-efficiency rating of 145.5 was second only to Florida's Rex Grossman in the SEC. WRs Donte Stallworth (35 catches) and Eric Parker (23) will put up bigger numbers now that Cedrick Wilson is gone. Stallworth, another Californian, was underutilized last year. He's physical (6-1, 190), which helps him make a catch in a crowd, and allows him to get yards after the catch. He has the potential to be UT's best wideout since Carl Pickens. Parker has decent speed, toughness and shifty moves that turn a short hitch into a decent gain. G Fred Weary is back to anchor the offensive line after tearing up a knee against Florida last year. The Vols dearly missed his toughness and leadership. Reggie Coleman is a stalwart at left tackle. He rarely gives up a sack, so the Vols have at least two All-SEC candidates up front.

**Offensive concerns:** TB Travis "Cheese" Henry leaves big shoes to fill, and those shoes left a lot of footprints on defenders. The other Travis, Stephens, opens camp as the starter, and he's not chopped liver. He gained 359 yards last year and shows surprising toughness for a 5-9 guy. But because of his size, there are concerns about his durability and ability to get tough yards up the middle.

That's why Jabari Davis—who reminds many at UT of Jamal Lewis—and Cedric Houston will surely be impact freshmen. Sophomore T Michael Munoz, the first true freshman to start on the offensive line at Tennessee since 1981, tore ligaments in his knee and will miss the entire season. As a result, G Anthony Herrera will move out to tackle, and the Vols won't be as strong up the middle. Incumbent Scott Wells and/or youngster Jason Respert have to prove they're physical enough to move the pile at center. That was a problem last year when Weary went down and red-shirt freshman Wells was forced into action.

**Defensive philosophy:** Speed is the word. Fly to the football. Recruit ends and beef them up to tackle. Recruit linebackers and beef them up into ends. Recruit safeties and running backs and convert them into linebackers. Defensive coordinator John Chavis obviously prizes mobility. That's why wanna-be LB Bernard Jackson is an end and erstwhile TB Dominique Stevenson is a middle linebacker. The Vols scheme to stop the run first, a mantra familiar in the SEC. Developing what was a tentative secondary last year will determine how much man coverage the Vols play this year.

**Defensive stars:** Big John Henderson had very little preseason hype last year but the proof was in the playing. The senior tackle was so dominant he was rewarded with the Outland Trophy, the first Vol to be so honored since Steve DeLong in 1964. Henderson was just

## TSNumber

**2**

The Parade All-American tailbacks the Vols signed. With Travis Henry gone, Jabari Davis

and Cedric Houston will get every opportunity to challenge returnee Travis Stephens for the featured job. Tennessee needs a balanced attack to take pressure off still-developing QB Casey Clausen, and a passing game that is in search of a big-play option.



impossible to block, gumming up the run and recording 12 quarterback sacks. Henderson, a touted high school basketball player, moves well for a 6-7, 290-pounder and has the strength to complement his footwork. He could have left early for the NFL and been a first-round pick, but he decided to stay and try to help the Vols win an SEC championship.

DE Will Overstreet could have an All-SEC season if his nagging back injury isn't such a problem this year. Overstreet, who the coaches say has a big motor, led the team in quarterback hurries with 17 but is astute enough to point out that a hurry means you didn't get there. A pain-free Overstreet will turn some of those hurries into sacks. He's one of the SEC's most underrated players and is always around the ball. Andre Lott bit the bullet last fall and moved from cornerback to strong safety, which was a pressing need. He didn't make all that many plays in pass defense, but since none of the cornerbacks did either, Lott is moving back to corner. It was a stipulation if he was to return for his senior year rather than go to the NFL. Automatically, the Vols are solid at one corner.

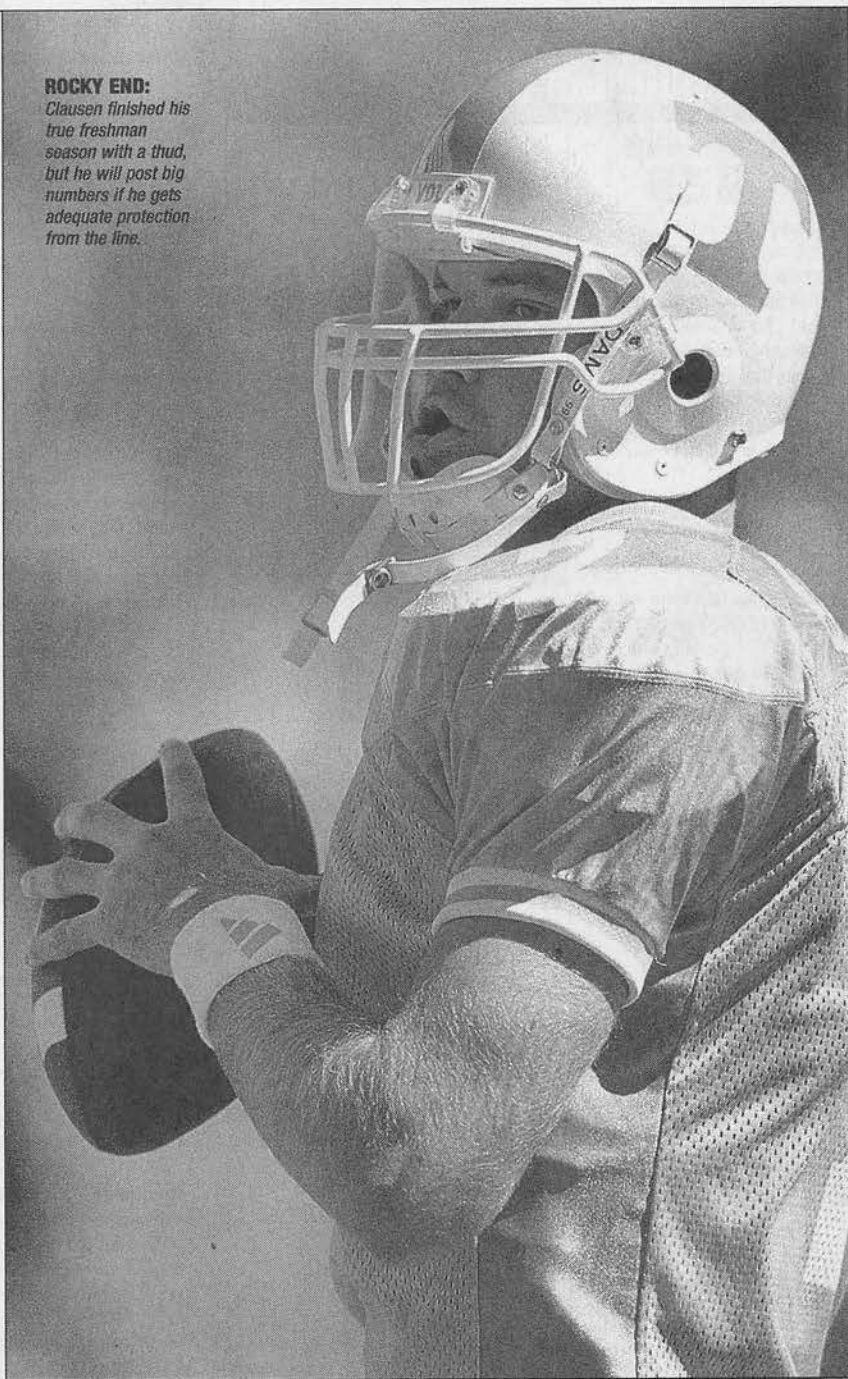
**Defensive concerns:** OK, Lott could be All-SEC at one corner, but the rest of the secondary starts at a much lower level. The Vols have had breakdowns for years in pass coverage, especially in big games. Rashad Baker, a freshman receiver who had never played defense, found himself starting at free safety last year. He's still there and, the Vols hope, wiser and stronger. Teddy Gaines had only one pick last year at corner, which was one more than Willie Miles, the other starter. Moving Lott back to corner means strong safety is up for grabs. The linebacker corps took a hit, losing seniors Eric Westmoreland and Anthony Sessions, both of whom made a ton of plays. Youngsters Kevin Burnett and Eddie Moore have to grow up fast and *Parade* All-American signee Kevin Simon will play if his rehabbed knee allows. The Vols may find they miss departed steady DE DeAngelo Lloyd more than they think on run defense.

**Special teams:** Every department looks good to go except punting and kickoffs, two areas that the departed David Leaverton handled so well. Alex Walls is almost automatic on field goals inside 50 yards. He was 18-of-20 overall last year and should repeat as a Lou Groza Award finalist. Leaverton had matured into a field-changing weapon in the punting game that will be missed. Dustin Colquitt and Seth Reagan will attempt to replace him, but neither has the cannon Leaverton possessed. Leonard Scott has the speed to be one of the nation's most dangerous kickoff return men. His average dropped off last year and the staff has to find a way to get it back to the 27.0 it was in 1999. Parker is a fearless punt-returner who is good for 10 yards a try and at making defenders miss.

**Coaching staff:** Bringing stability to the staff was one of Fulmer's primary goals when he took over in 1993. For the most part he's succeeded, and it has paid dividends. The only change this year was bringing Doug Marrone from Georgia to help Mike Barry coach the offensive line. Marrone, who was at Georgia Tech prior to his only season at Georgia, is considered an up-and-comer. The defensive staff, headed by the underrated and often criticized Chavis, remains intact. Randy Sanders begins his third season as offensive coordinator and a hard-to-please jury is still out. Chavis

#### ROCKY END:

Clausen finished his true freshman season with a thud, but he will post big numbers if he gets adequate protection from the line.



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

finally earned acceptance from Tennessee's demanding fans in the 1998 national championship season. Sanders, who has been in the UT system since he enrolled as a freshman quarterback in 1984, needs to establish himself as a developer of quarterbacks by nurturing sophomore Clausen to a banner season.

**Bottom line:** Tennessee fans went into the 2000 season confident it was a building block for a better 2001. The Vols should indeed be a better team this season, but improving on 8-4 is no lock. The schedule is rugged and has very little room for wiggle. Tennessee hasn't won at Florida since 1971 and gets a September 8th visit to Arkansas. In November, the Vols go to Notre Dame. SEC West favorite LSU and Syracuse are on the home menu. The offensive line and secondary will go a long way toward determining whether the Vols can just survive or actually thrive. An 8-3 regular season won't earn any standing ovations, but shouldn't be considered a huge disappointment either.



# 3 South Carolina

**National Rank**  
**19**

**Coach:** Lou Holtz (8-15, 2 years; 224-110-7 overall, 30 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Skip Holtz (3rd season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Charlie Strong (3rd season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 11  
**Lettermen lost:** 14  
**Lettermen returning:** 41  
**Site:** Columbia, S.C.  
**Stadium:** Williams-Bryce (grass, 82,250)  
**Last league title won:** None  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1999  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 86  
**2000 record:** 8-4 (beat Ohio State in Outback Bowl);  
**SEC East:** 5-3/T2nd  
**Website:** www.uscsports.com

## 2000 Results

New Mexico State, W, 31-0  
Georgia, W, 21-10  
Eastern Michigan, W, 41-6  
Mississippi State, W, 23-19  
at Alabama, L, 27-17  
at Kentucky, W, 20-17  
Arkansas, W, 27-7  
at Vanderbilt, W, 30-14  
Tennessee, L, 17-14  
at Florida, L, 41-21  
at Clemson, L, 16-14  
Ohio State, W, 24-7

## Schedule

S1—Boise State  
**S8—at Georgia**  
S15—Bowling Green  
S22—at Mississippi State  
S29—Alabama  
O6—Kentucky  
O13—at Arkansas  
O20—Vanderbilt  
O27—at Tennessee  
N10—Florida  
N17—Clemson

## Game of the year

### Sept. 8—at Georgia

An early-season litmus test for the Gamecocks. No one will be looking past South Carolina this season, and the Bulldogs will be primed to start the Mark Richt era strong. Beating Georgia early last year launched the Gamecocks to a 7-1 start and began the feel-good story of the season. This year, a Gamecocks win wouldn't be a stunner.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

South Carolina has played good defense since Day One under Lou Holtz. That won't change, but the offense needs more explosiveness.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★  
**Receivers:** ★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★★  
**Secondary:** ★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Carlos Spikes	6-0	202	Sr.
	Michael Ages	5-10	168	Jr.
T	<b>Melvin Paige</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jeff Barnes	6-4	275	So.
G	Shane Hall	6-6	300	Jr.
	Kevin Rivers	6-3	300	Sr.
C	<b>Larrell Johnson</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	C.J. Frye	6-3	290	Jr.
G	<b>Cedric Williams</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	John Strickland	6-3	290	Fr.*
T	<b>Travelle Wharton</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Watts Sanderson	6-4	295	Jr.
TE	Rod Trafford	6-4	260	Sr.
	Hart Turner	6-4	240	So.
WR	<b>Brian Scott</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	James Adkisson	6-4	218	Sr.
QB	<b>Phil Petty</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Erik Kimrey	6-1	200	Jr.
RB	Ryan Brewer	5-10	212	Jr.
	Andrew Pinnock	6-0	248	Jr.
FB	<b>Andrew Pinnock</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Travis Lewis	6-0	250	Sr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	John Stamper	6-4	265	Sr.
	Jonathan Alston	6-5	265	Fr.*
NG	Langston Moore	6-1	290	Jr.
	Willie Sams	6-5	280	Sr.
E	<b>Dennis Quinn</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Jason Capers	6-3	250	Fr.*
LB	<b>Shannon Wadley</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jeremiah Garrison	6-1	218	So.
LB	Kenny Harney	6-2	252	Sr.
	Brian Brownlee	6-3	235	Fr.*
LB	<b>Kalimba Edwards</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jack Johnson	6-2	220	Fr.*
CB	Andre Goodman	5-10	188	Sr.
	Kevin House	5-11	178	Sr.
S	<b>Rashad Faison</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Jamie Scott	5-10	218	Jr.
S	<b>Willie Offord</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jonathan Martin	5-10	215	Jr.
FS	Deandre Eiland	6-0	178	So.
	Antione Nesmith	6-0	218	Sr.
CB	<b>Sheldon Brown</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Rachiem Monroe	5-9	178	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Dan Weaver	5-9	170	So.
P	Tyler Dean	5-9	189	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** Now, at least, South Carolina has an offense to which a philosophy can be attached. In 1999, the Gamecocks were the worst offensive team in Division I, a real Keystone Cops deal: The 2000 Gamecocks were more in line with a Lou Holtz team, showing a sense of balance between run and pass. The Gamecocks ran the ball 406 times and threw it 335. Phil Petty returns at quarterback, and coordinator Skip Holtz will again maximize Petty's strengths (recognition, experience) and minimize his weaknesses (average arm, lack of elusiveness). The offensive line should be solid enough to give decent protection and open holes for a power running game.

**Offensive stars:** Derek Watson is a potential All-SEC running back if he keeps his act clean off the field. In the league, only Auburn's Rudi Johnson and Tennessee's Travis Henry gained more yards than Watson's 1,066 last season, and his 11 touchdowns topped the entire offensive unit of '99. Watson was suspended for the Outback Bowl and suspended again in the spring—it was unclear how long it would last—and knows he has about run out of chances in his two seasons. Despite his problems, Watson is generally respected by his teammates and could repay them with leadership. If he is reinstated and tends to his business, his numbers could be even bigger in 2001. Ryan Brewer used Watson's Outback Bowl absence to look like a Heisman candidate, if only for one game. It's more likely that FB Andrew Pinnock will move to tailback should Watson not return. T Melvin Paige will contend for All-SEC honors on a line that dominated Ohio State in the Outback Bowl.

**Offensive concerns:** Holtz went into spring practice worried about his receivers and came out the same way. With Jermaine Kelly gone, Brian Scott figures to emerge as the go-to guy. South Carolina has waited for three years for Scott to emerge as a dangerous threat in the passing game, but Scott simply hasn't made strides when he has had the chance. James Adkisson still hasn't capitalized on what Holtz considers tremendous potential. If Scott and Adkisson can develop, Petty's shortcomings become less magnified. If not, Corey Alexander or Willis Ham could play their way into bigger roles. The Gamecocks hoped to solve their depth problem in recruiting, but all the big ones got away. While Petty isn't a concern as the starting quarterback, his backup is. Redshirt freshman Dondrial Pinkins, more athletic than Petty, looked terrific most of the spring and established himself as the future quarterback. But then he went and threw five interceptions and fumbled a snap in the spring game. That might scare Holtz into sticking with less talented Erik Kimrey as the backup. It was Kimrey who threw the game-winning touchdown pass against Mississippi State early last season.

**Defensive philosophy:** Even in the 0-11 '99 season, South Carolina proved it could play SEC-caliber defense. It just got no help on the other side of the ball. Last season, the offense showed up and the defense was just as tenacious, allowing only 17 touchdowns—four fewer than anyone else in the conference. Coordinator Charlie Strong has plenty of experience to call on in 2001, so the Gamecocks can afford to be aggressive. South Carolina allowed a league-low five touchdown passes last fall while pulling down 18 interceptions. It's tough to beat the Gamecocks deep. Look for South Carolina in a 4-3 front more this year instead of a 3-3-5, but the principles will be generally the same. South Carolina will mix zone and blitz packages and force quarterbacks to make good decisions.

**Defensive stars:** Kalimba Edwards decided to return for his senior year, delaying what should be a lengthy NFL career. He's a pass rusher who can get down at defensive end or stand up and play outside linebacker. Either way, he can harass the quarterback with his combination of speed and strength, much like former South Carolina

## TSNumber

The increase in total points from the 1999 season. That year, the

Gamecocks ranked last in the nation with 87 points. Last year, they scored 283. The attack should be productive with junior RB Derek Watson leading the charge. With an improved offense to go with a consistently tough defense, South Carolina has the goods to compete with anyone.

**196**



star John Abraham. CB Sheldon Brown is the standout in a strong secondary and will be a candidate for postseason honors. He had four interceptions last season, the same as up-and-coming Deandre Eiland. Kevin House looks ready to give the Gamecocks a solid senior season at cornerback. Antione Nesmith was a hit in his first season at strong safety until he got hurt. The former fullback is healthy again and ready to start head-hunting. Kenny Harney brings toughness against the run to the inside linebacker spot. He'll have to have a big year because of the question marks at tackle.

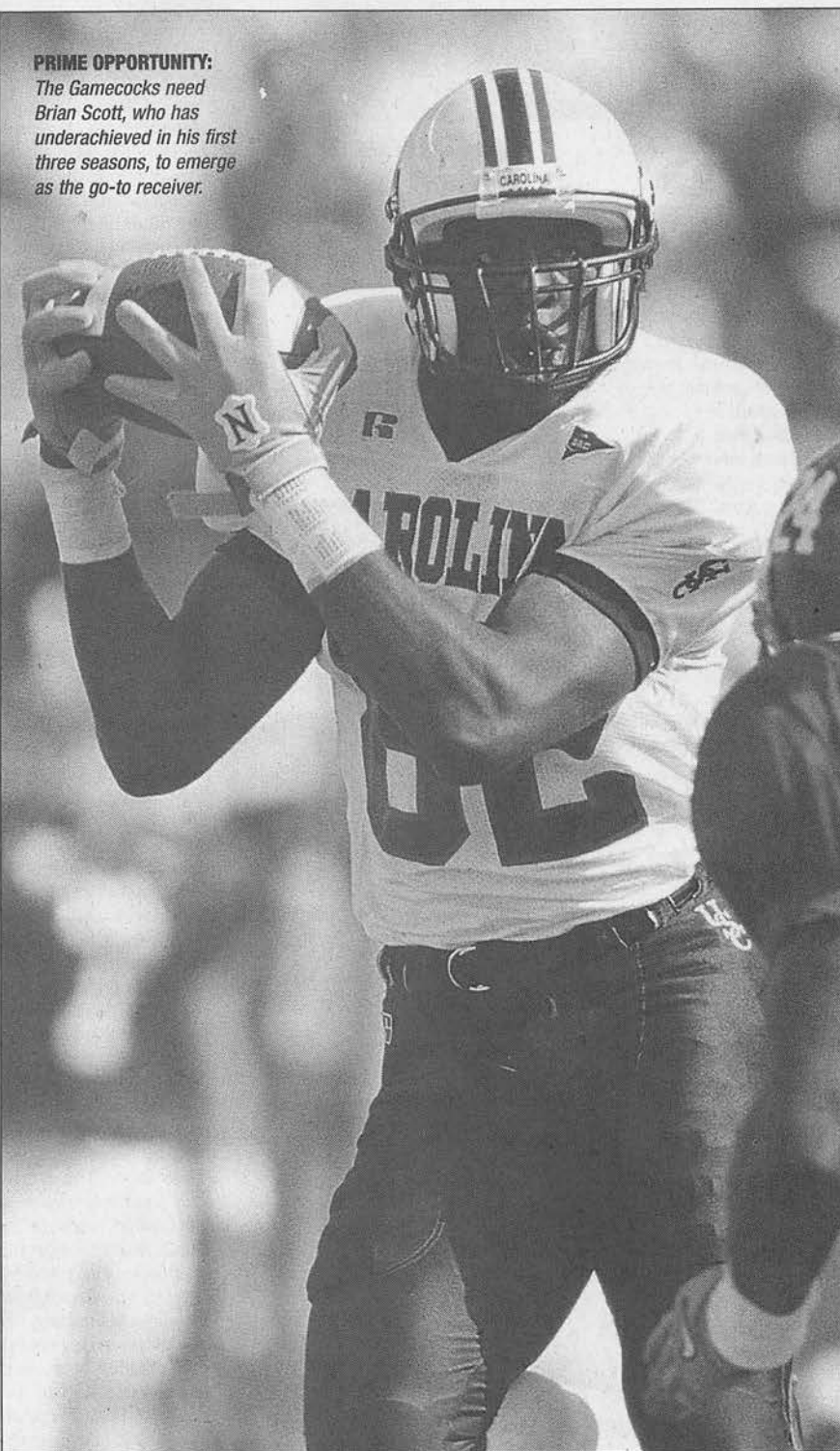
**Defensive concerns:** There aren't many, but they are critical. With Ts Cecil Caldwell and Cleveland Pinkney gone, the heart of the run defense has been ripped out. They were anchors for the past two seasons who set a tone on the practice field as well as on game day. Langston Moore and Dennis Quinn emerged from spring practice as likely starters, but it would be overly optimistic to think they'll be as tough as Caldwell and Pinkney were. JC transfer Shaun Smith will get a chance to have an immediate impact, just as Pinkney did in '99. Jonathan Alston is another hopeful. Losing the two big tackles puts more pressure on the ends to make plays. Edwards will be capable on one side. John Stamper needs to get tougher on the other.

**Special teams:** This group has been mediocre at best the past few years other than brief breakouts in various games. The field-goal game has improved from laughing-stock bad to just disappointing, but spring practice indicated newcomer Dan Weaver might solidify things. Tyeler Dean could help by putting a few extra yards in his punting average. The return-game numbers are average, but South Carolina was one of only two teams with two punt-return scores last season. One of the few bright spots last year was the special teams performance against Florida, when the Gamecocks returned two blocked punts for touchdowns.

**Coaching staff:** Holtz is the first to credit South Carolina's amazing 2000 turnaround to the impressive coaching staff. Athletic director Mike McGee wants to keep it intact and opened the wallet to do so. Holtz got a pay bump up to \$1 million, and the assistants also got nice raises. Strong, linebackers coach Chris Cosh and secondary coach John Gutekunst are all in six figures, as is offensive coordinator Skip Holtz. Strong and his staff turned in a second straight strong effort, leading the SEC in scoring defense at 15.8 points per game. Carolina was No. 2 in pass-efficiency defense and fourth in total defense. Skip Holtz's second season was even more notable, nearly tripling the Gamecocks' scoring to 259 points (not counting the bowl game). There were rumors when Lou Holtz took the job that he wouldn't be around long. Judging from last year's work and his enthusiasm during recruiting and spring practice, don't expect him to back off any time soon.

**Bottom line:** The Gamecocks go from being the hunter to the hunted after improving from 0-11 to 8-4. The good news is that a wealth of returning players sets the stage for South Carolina to hang on to the ground it gained last season in the tough SEC

**PRIME OPPORTUNITY:**  
*The Gamecocks need Brian Scott, who has underachieved in his first three seasons, to emerge as the go-to receiver.*



Eastern Division. More good news: The Gamecocks believe in themselves now, especially after the Outback Bowl demolition of Ohio State took the sting out of ending the regular season on a downer. Personnel-wise, South Carolina looks good. The keys are keeping Watson out of the doghouse, keeping Petty healthy and compensating for the loss of stalwarts Pinkney and Caldwell at defensive tackle. If the Gamecocks aren't vulnerable to the run up the gut, the rest of the defense will handle itself fine. Duplicating last year's 8-4 season is doable. South Carolina gets Florida and Clemson at home to finish the season, and a New Year's Day bowl could hinge on winning one of those two games.



# 4 Georgia

**National Rank**  
**29**

**Coach:** Mark Richt (1st year)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Neil Callaway (1st season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Brian VanGorder (1st season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Pro set  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 9  
**Lettermen lost:** 17  
**Lettermen returning:** 56  
**Site:** Athens, Ga.  
**Stadium:** Sanford (grass, 86,117)  
**Last league title won:** 1982  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1996  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 11  
**2000 record:** 8-4 (beat Virginia in Oahu Bowl); SEC East: 5-3/T2nd  
**Website:** www.georgiadogs.com

## 2000 Results

Georgia Southern, W, 29-7 at South Carolina, L, 21-10  
New Mexico State, W, 37-0 at Arkansas, W, 38-7  
Tennessee, W, 21-10  
Vanderbilt, W, 29-19 at Kentucky, W, 34-30  
Florida, L, 34-23 at Auburn, L, 29-26  
Mississippi, W, 32-14  
Georgia Tech, L, 27-15  
Virginia, W, 37-14

## Schedule

S1—Arkansas State  
S8—South Carolina  
S15—Houston  
S29—Arkansas  
O6—at Tennessee  
O13—at Vanderbilt  
O20—Kentucky  
O27—Florida\*  
N10—Auburn  
N17—at Mississippi  
N24—at Georgia Tech  
\*at Jacksonville, Fla.

## Game of the year

**Nov. 24—at Ga. Tech**  
A big reason Mark Richt is here and Jim Donnan isn't is Donnan's inability to beat Georgia's chief rivals. Ending on a high note against the Yellow Jackets would soothe the alums and help with in-state recruiting battles. Georgia hasn't lost four in a row to Tech since the 1950s. Hitting that lowpoint would tarnish Richt's first season.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The biggest key is finding a quarterback to take advantage of what looks like a fine receiving corps. The defense might be undone if no tackles develop.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★  
**Receivers:** ★★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★★★★  
**Secondary:** ★★★

Key: based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Terrence Edwards	6-1	165	Jr.
	Corrie Collier	6-0	190	Sr.
T	Jon Stinchcomb	6-6	278	Jr.
	Alex Jackson	6-4	320	Jr.
G	Kevin Breedlove	6-4	311	Jr.
	Ben Lowe	6-4	266	Jr.
C	Curt McGill	6-4	275	Sr.
	Ian Knight	6-3	266	Jr.
G	Randall Kendrick	6-4	285	Jr.
	Chris Hewitt	6-5	274	So.
T	George Foster	6-6	307	Jr.
	Clint Larkin	6-4	300	Sr.
TE	Randy McMichael	6-4	228	Jr.
	Jason Rader	6-4	242	Jr.
WR	LaBrone Mitchell	6-1	200	Sr.
	Durrell Robinson	6-1	207	Jr.
QB	Cory Phillips	6-1	212	Jr.
	David Greene	6-3	205	Fr.*
RB	Musa Smith	6-1	215	So.
	Verron Haynes	5-10	222	Sr.
FB	Jasper Sanks	6-0	221	Sr.
	Kenny Bailey	5-10	188	So.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Terin Smith	6-4	244	Sr.
	Bruce Adrine	6-4	255	Sr.
T	David Jacobs	6-4	255	Jr.
	Ken Veal	6-1	293	So.
T	Johnathan Sullivan	6-3	271	So.
	Shedrick Wynn	6-2	262	So.
E	Charles Grant	6-3	265	Jr.
	Josh Mallard	6-2	263	Sr.
OLB	Will Witherspoon	6-2	217	Sr.
	Boss Bailey	6-4	218	Jr.
MLB	Adrian Hollingshed	6-2	238	Sr.
	Brian Schoenbaum	6-3	230	Jr.
OLB	Tony Gilbert	6-0	234	Sr.
	Ryan Fleming	6-2	228	Sr.
CB	Tim Wansley	5-9	172	Sr.
	Dantra Clements	5-10	180	So.
SS	Terreal Bierria	6-3	204	Sr.
	Ryan Davis	5-10	185	So.
FS	Jermaine Phillips	6-2	211	Sr.
	Cap Burnett	6-1	210	Jr.
CB	Decory Bryant	6-0	181	So.
	Bruce Thornton	5-10	187	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Billy Bennett	5-8	160	So.
P	Jonathan Kilgo	6-1	191	Sr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

**Offensive philosophy:** Georgia replaced one offensive-minded head coach with another. Jim Donnan is out, Mark Richt is in. Richt, 40, gets his head coaching break after 15 years on the staff at Florida State, the past seven as offensive coordinator. He sent five quarterbacks to the NFL—and one (Charlie Ward) to the NBA. Georgia is banking on Richt's ability to develop quarterbacks and orchestrate a spread offense that will put up points in bunches. Richt may have to pay more homage to the running game now that he's in the SEC. Donnan seemed reluctant to commit to the running game as much as most SEC teams do, so it'll be interesting to see what Richt does. Remember, FSU wasn't overly committed to the running game, either. Because of limitations at quarterback, it's also unclear how much of a Florida State-style offense Richt will attempt this year.

**Offensive stars:** WR Terrence Edwards has caught 53 passes in each of his two seasons, and he ought to be jumping for joy with the arrival of a Florida State offensive mind-set. Edwards has proved to be the best target on campus despite the arrival of more heralded players such as Reggie Brown and Durrell Robinson (23 combined catches last year). Junior Randy McMichael has averaged 33 catches in two seasons at tight end, and, based on Richt's first spring practice, he isn't about to disappear. Musa Smith could have a big season at tailback, capitalizing on the occasional flashes he showed as a freshman. With Jasper Sanks moving to fullback, Smith is the featured running back. At 6-1, 215, he can get the tough yards between the tackles. T Jon Stinchcomb, a 6-6, 278-pound junior, is poised to blossom into a star, with 22 starts already under his belt. He and G Kevin Breedlove were TSN freshman All-American picks in '99 and have matured.

**Offensive concerns:** Is Cory Phillips an SEC-caliber quarterback? He'd better be—or Richt and Georgia better hope heralded recruit D.J. Shockley is. Quincy Carter bailed out for the NFL rather than waiting to see if Richt could maximize his abilities. Phillips, a former walk-on, started four games last year when Carter was injured and passed for 1,306 yards. He threw for 400 yards and four touchdowns against Kentucky, but the Wildcats were so bad that Richt has to put an asterisk by that game. If Phillips doesn't pan out or gets hurt, Shockley or redshirt freshman David Greene will be thrown into the fire. Replacing T Jonas Jennings and G Brady Pate up front is the other worry. The good news is there is no shortage of candidates with some experience. Jennings had matured into an All-SEC player, but George Foster or Alex Jackson could turn out to be pretty good. Depth could be a problem if the front-liners get hurt. With Richt employing three- and four-wide sets, Robinson and Brown must develop into dependable threats to help the transition at quarterback.

**Defensive philosophy:** Brian VanGorder is Georgia's fourth coordinator in four years. In general, his 4-3 scheme will look familiar, but his style couldn't be more different from that of Gary Gibbs, who did a nice job dealing with Georgia's defensive mess last season and is now at LSU. Gibbs was professorial, while VanGorder is intense and confrontational. He describes himself as a Michigan man from the Bo Schembechler school. VanGorder is introducing the rover position to the secondary. It's essentially a free safety, but that player will have to cover a receiver man-to-man. Jermaine Phillips emerged from spring practice as the leading candidate.

**Defensive stars:** CB Tim Wansley became a big-play man last year with six interceptions, two of which he returned for touchdowns. The only other Bulldog to do that was the legendary Jake Scott. Wansley starts the season in the doghouse, however, serving at least a one-game suspension for violating team rules. LB Boss Bailey, who tore up a knee on the opening kickoff last year, is back and ready to fulfill his star potential. He heads an excellent corps of linebackers. Will Witherspoon and Tony Gilbert also are big-time players. Charles Grant

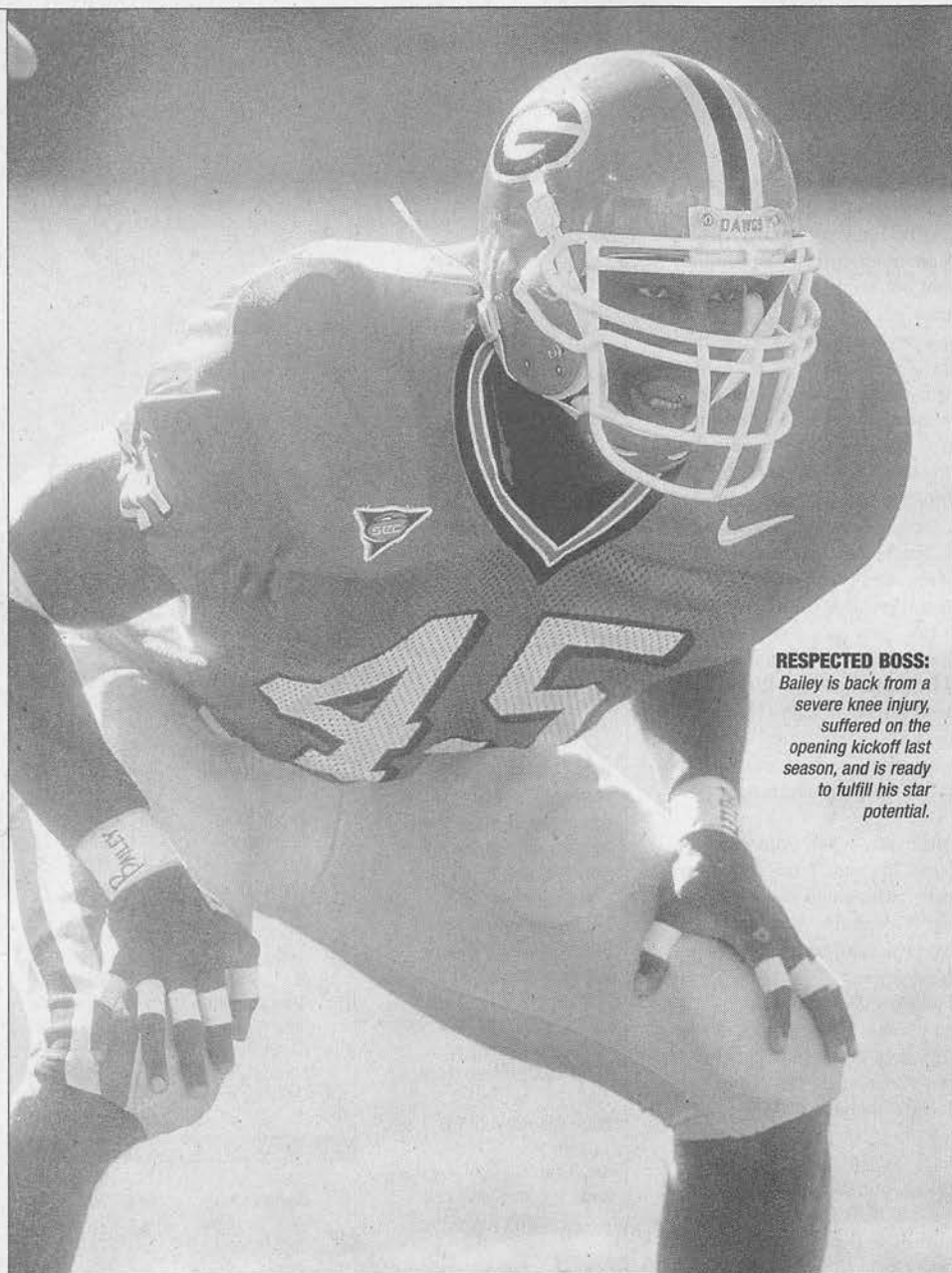
## TSNumber

**23**

Touchdowns Georgia allowed last year. Defensive coordinator Gary Gibbs batted down the

hatches. Only South Carolina (19) was tougher to score on in the SEC. Now, Gibbs is the coordinator at LSU, and the Mark Richt regime has taken over in Athens. The new staff will be challenged to find tackles to take over for Marcus Stroud and Richard Seymour.



**RESPECTED BOSS:**

*Bailey is back from a severe knee injury, suffered on the opening kickoff last season, and is ready to fulfill his star potential.*

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

was a TSN freshman All-American pick in '99 at defensive end but tailed off to only two sacks last season. Grant, though, could get back on track and win All-SEC honors. At 265 pounds, he has great speed to be a disruptor, and he can be dominating. When healthy, he plays much like Florida's Alex Brown. The problem: There are times when you don't even know he's on the field. If he can return to top form, the Bulldogs will have a valuable weapon.

**Defensive concerns:** Take Ts Richard Seymour and Marcus Stroud out of the middle of any line, and you've got a double-wide hole to fill. The nation's best pair of tackles has gone off to the NFL. Sophomore Johnathan Sullivan looks like a future star and will fill one of the vacancies, but he's not likely to be immovable, as were the guys who left. Throw in the fact that MLB Kendrell Bell, one of the nation's most underrated playmakers last season, also is gone, and Georgia could be vulnerable up the gut. One of the outstanding outside linebackers could move into the middle, or former starter Adrian Hollingshed could get the call.

**Special teams:** Billy Bennett, who came to campus as a hometown walk-on, took over the kicking duties last year, hit 13 of 14 tries and received TSN freshman All-American honors, not to mention a

scholarship. His long kick was 49 yards. Jonathan Kilgo is one of the league's better punters, and he averaged 42.2 yards a kick last fall. He boomed 13 of more than 50 yards and plunked 15 inside the 20. Georgia didn't get a whole lot from its return game last year. Bruce Thornton returned kick-offs and Damien Gary punts. Both jobs could change hands. **Coaching staff:** Rodney Garner is the only familiar face on the staff left from the Donnan purge. Keeping Garner was huge for Richt. Not only will Garner continue to coach the defensive line, he will also continue his paramount duties as recruiting coordinator. Garner held Georgia's recruiting efforts together while Richt completed his duties at Florida State and assembled a staff. Richt brought back former Bulldog Mike Bobo to coach his quarterbacks. Neil Callaway is the offensive coordinator and line coach, the same duties he held last year at Alabama. Jon Fabris (defensive ends) comes from the NFL, and John Eason (receivers) coached with Richt at Florida State in the early 1990s before leaving for South Carolina and eventually the CFL. VanGorder will work with linebackers in addition to his coordinator duties. Secondary coach Willie Martinez worked with him at Central Michigan. Richt, interestingly, didn't bring anybody from Florida State other than highly respected strength and conditioning coach Dave Van Halanger. But Van Halanger, who Bobby Bowden has said was a huge factor in the rise of Florida State's program, could be the biggest addition of all

for the Bulldogs. Getting stronger and tougher is a key area of concern.

**Bottom line:** Richt inherits a team that isn't short on talent but one that could easily finish fourth in the tough SEC East. A defense adjusting to its fourth coordinator in four years will need to help the offense in terms of getting good field position and keeping scores low. No one questions that Richt is a quality football man and a quality person who was due to become a head coach. He will be more likable than Donnan, but he still has to get more wins against Florida, Tennessee, Auburn and Georgia Tech than Donnan did or he'll soon be on a hot seat, too. Richt opens with four home games and has a chance to be 4-0 when he goes to Knoxville on October 6. Georgia could be 6-1 by the time it gets to the tough stretch run of Florida, Auburn, Ole Miss and Georgia Tech. A turnover here or there is the difference between 8-3 and 7-4. And remember, Donnan was pushed out by president Michael Adams because he couldn't beat Florida, Georgia Tech and Auburn consistently. Richt's first season may not play out much better against the Big Three.



# 5 Vanderbilt

**Offensive philosophy:** Vanderbilt's anemic running game (96.6-yard average last year) leaves coordinator Steve Crosby having to pass to set up the run rather than the other way around. Lefty QB Greg Zolman averaged 222 yards passing, second best in the league. The lack of a deep threat in the passing game made receivers a priority in the latest recruiting class, but it might be awhile before the Commodores know if they got what they need.

**Offensive stars:** Zolman's 2,441 passing yards last season were the most by a Vanderbilt quarterback since 1988. A fifth-year senior, Zolman has gotten better in touchdowns to interceptions ratio (13 to 14), but there's plenty of room for more improvement this season. WR Dan Stricker is one of the league's most productive wideouts. He caught 61 balls for 994 yards, a healthy 16.3-yard average.

**Offensive concerns:** Vanderbilt hasn't run the ball with authority since the Gerry DiNardo option days. Last season, the Commodores averaged a paltry 3.1 yards per carry. The team hasn't had a 100-yard rusher in the past 13 games, a sorry streak that sophomore RB Ray Perkins hopes to break this year. Perkins is on the small side at 191 pounds, but he gained 5 yards per carry as a rookie. Duncan Cave moves in to start at right guard, with Jim May moving to left guard. Sophomore Jordan Pettit could be a factor at one tackle spot. The receiving corps has only one proven target, Stricker. That means someone among the group of Anthony Jones, Chris Young and M.J. Garrett has to make a big jump from last year. TE Tom Simone, who had a nice game against Tennessee in the season finale, is set to emerge.

**Defensive philosophy:** Vanderbilt will stick with a 3-4, primarily because it still has better linebackers than linemen. Jamie Winborn's decision to go pro took away a linebacker who could make plays from sideline to sideline. Coach Woody Widenhofer, who has a well-deserved reputation as a defensive tactician, has decided to get back into the day-to-day work with the defense.

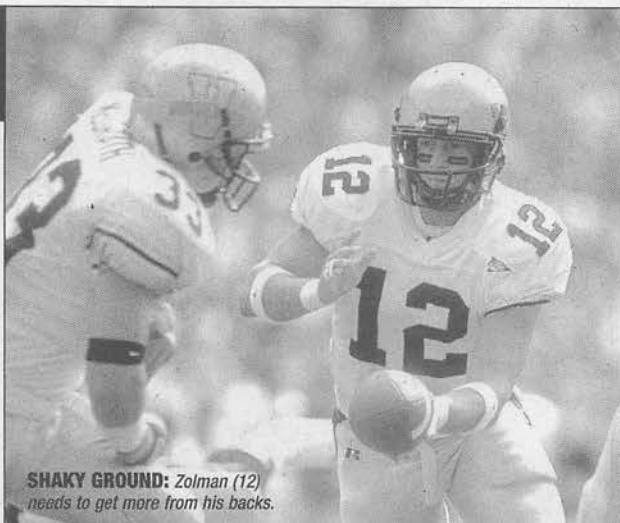
**Defensive stars:** LB Antuan Bradford was overshadowed by Winborn, but that won't be the case any more. On the short, stocky side, Bradford is quick enough to be effective in the blitz package and led the team with 10 quarterback pressures last year. Nate Morrow has to make more plays at outside linebacker. At 6-4, he can be an effective pass rusher. CB Rushen Jones is the star cover man now that Jimmy Williams is gone.

**Defensive concerns:** The Commodores lost four star-caliber players from a defense that had slipped to allowing 390 yards per game last year. That's not a good sign. Sophomore Brett Beard is penciled in at nose tackle. He'll be flanked by veterans Doyle Crosby and Wally Conyers, but it hardly appears to be a lock that the Commodores will get tougher against the run.

**Special teams:** Things were so disappointing last season that Widenhofer has divvied up the various units among different coaches rather than leave it all on the shoulders of tight ends coach Billy Maskill. Dino Folino will coach the punt return team. Maskill will handle the punt team, led by veteran P Joe Webb. Replacing four-year K John Markham probably will fall to true freshman Lance Garner.

**Coaching staff:** Widenhofer's decision to get heavily involved again with the defense probably will pay dividends. When he was coordinator in 1996, Vanderbilt allowed an average of only 316 yards.

**Bottom line:** Widenhofer glowed with optimism before last year, but a 3-8 season was a sobering dose of reality. The Commodores lost three games by less than a touchdown, so a bowl game wasn't that far out of reach. To break the bowl drought that extends to 1982, it's imperative that the team sweeps non-conference games against Middle Tennessee, I-AA Richmond and Duke. Kentucky is beatable, but that still leaves two conference games Vanderbilt would have to steal.



**SHAKY GROUND:** Zolman (12) needs to get more from his backs.

JOHN REED FOR TSN

## National Rank 86

**Coach:** Woody Widenhofer (13-31, 4 years; 25-62-1 overall, 8 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Steve Crosby (4th season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Herb Paterra (2nd season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** 3-4

**Starters lost:** 9

**Lettermen lost:** 18

**Lettermen returning:** 51

**Site:** Nashville, Tenn.

**Stadium:** Vanderbilt (grass, 41,600)

**Last league title won:** None

**Last bowl appearance:** 1982

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 73

**2000 record:** 3-8. SEC East:

1-7/5th

**Website:**

www.vucommodores.com

### 2000 Results

Miami (Ohio), L, 33-30

at Alabama, L, 28-10

Mississippi, L, 12-7

Duke, W, 26-7

at Auburn, L, 33-0

at Wake Forest, W, 17-10

at Georgia, L, 29-19

South Carolina, L, 30-14

Florida, L, 43-20

at Kentucky, W, 24-20

Tennessee, L, 28-26

### Schedule

A30—Middle Tennessee State

S8—Alabama

S15—at Mississippi

S22—Richmond

S29—Auburn

O13—Georgia

O20—at South Carolina

O27—at Duke

N3—at Florida

N10—Kentucky

N17—at Tennessee

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Dan Stricker</b>	6-3	201	Jr.
	Nezih Hasanoglu	6-3	220	Sr.
T	Jordan Pettit	6-4	284	So.
	Justin Geisinger	6-4	304	Fr.
G	<b>Jim May</b>	6-4	303	Jr.
	Brent Peachey	6-5	312	Jr.
C	<b>Jamie Byrum</b>	6-4	277	Jr.
	Jason Tant	6-3	270	So.
G	Duncan Cave	6-1	284	Sr.
	Greg Robson	6-4	286	Fr.
T	<b>Pat Green</b>	6-7	335	Sr.
	Kenan Arkan	6-7	278	Fr.*
TE	<b>Tom Simone</b>	6-5	236	Jr.
	Nick Getter	6-4	243	So.
WR	<b>Anthony Jones</b>	6-2	172	Jr.
	M.J. Garrett	6-3	206	Jr.
QB	<b>Greg Zolman</b>	6-4	208	Sr.
	Benji Walker	6-4	212	So.
RB	Ray Perkins	5-10	191	So.
	Rodney Williams	5-11	208	Sr.
WR	Chris Young	6-2	178	So.
	Ron Hatcher	5-10	170	So.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Doyle Crosby</b>	6-4	302	Sr.
	Ryan Nungesser	6-4	260	Jr.
NT	Brett Beard	6-3	281	So.
	Matt Clay	6-2	280	Fr.*
E	<b>Wally Conyers</b>	6-7	266	Sr.
	Chuck Losey	6-4	246	Jr.
OLB	Hunter Hillenmeyer	6-4	232	Jr.
	Libnir Telusca	6-3	225	So.
ILB	Mike Adam	6-3	235	Jr.
	Pat Brunner	6-3	246	Fr.*
ILB	<b>Antuan Bradford</b>	6-0	231	Sr.
	Doug Wolford	6-3	241	So.
OLB	<b>Nate Morrow</b>	6-4	248	Sr.
	Brandon Walthour	6-3	219	So.
CB	Aaron McWhorter	6-1	192	Jr.
	Ian Gaines	5-11	188	So.
SS	<b>Harold Lercius</b>	5-11	195	Sr.
	Jerrold Jackson	6-2	196	Jr.
FS	<b>Justin Giboney</b>	6-0	195	Jr.
	Jonathan Shaub	6-1	201	Fr.
CB	<b>Rushen Jones</b>	6-1	195	Jr.
	Lorenzo Parker	5-11	182	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Chuck Folino	6-0	170	So.
P	<b>Joe Webb</b>	6-3	214	Sr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 6 Kentucky

**Offensive philosophy:** Hal Mumme is gone, but his Air Raid offense will still be in vogue under new coach Guy Morriss. The Wildcats threw the ball 124 times more than anyone else in the league. New offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Brent Pease ran a similar offense at Montana and Northern Arizona. However, Morriss wants the Wildcats to put more emphasis on a running game that averaged only 110 yards.

**Offensive stars:** Like James Whalen before him, TE Derek Smith is riding the Air Raid offense to a pile of individual honors. Smith caught 50 passes for 716 yards last year, and his three best games came against ranked opponents (Florida, Georgia and Mississippi State). Jared Lorenzen may look like the tight end, but he's the quarterback. Morriss wants Lorenzen to trim his weight, which approached 300 pounds last season. As a freshman, Lorenzen threw for 3,687 yards, but his interceptions (21) outnumbered touchdowns (19), leading to a pass-efficiency rating far below Rex Grossman and Casey Clausen, the league's other freshman quarterbacks. TB Chad Scott was a pleasant surprise, rushing for 611 yards as a freshman to go with his 34 catches.

**Offensive concerns:** Although the offense uses the dink pass as a substitute for running, the Wildcats need to get more physical on the ground when they get in the red zone. For all the yardage gained, Kentucky averaged only 23.1 points last season. There is potential for the line to be more physical this year as C Nolan DeVaughn returns from an injury. Matt Brown, Antonio Hall and Kip Sixbery have paid some dues and should be stronger for it.

**Defensive philosophy:** New coordinator John Goodner will try a 4-2 alignment in the latest attempt to upgrade what was a woeful defensive performance under Mumme. In addition to four down linemen, there will be two inside linebackers. With two safeties hovering nearby, the scheme amounts to an eight-man front designed to stop the run. The safeties will adjust to cover men on passing plays.

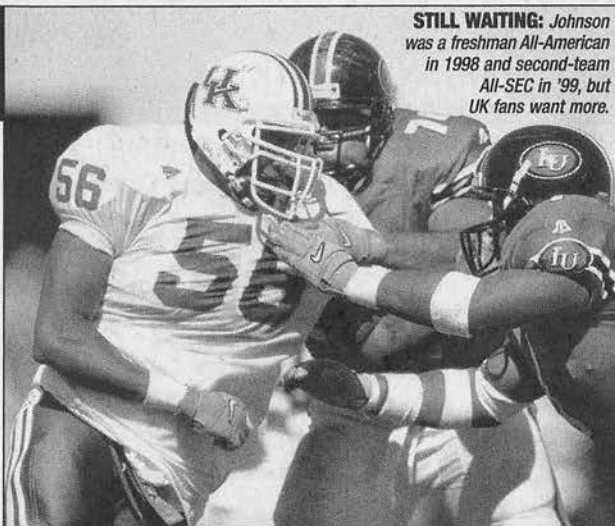
**Defensive stars:** After three years on campus, folks are still waiting for DE Dennis Johnson to remind them of the great Art Still. Johnson is coming off a medical redshirt season. A junior, he needs to be a disruptive force, something Kentucky has lacked. T Dewayne Robertson was thrown into the fray as a true freshman and began to get more consistent as the year progressed.

**Defensive concerns:** Other than Johnson and Robertson, every position is a concern. Kentucky gave up 34.8 points and 405 yards a game last year. The end slot opposite Johnson looks weak. Will the linebacker play somehow improve, despite losing Marlon McCree? Then there's the secondary. SS David Johnson is the only returning starter on a unit that was repeatedly burned. FS Anthony Wajda, a productive player in 1999, is out of the doghouse now that Mumme's gone and could reassert himself. Cornerback is a huge problem until proven otherwise.

**Coaching staff:** Morriss was promoted on February 6—the day before National Signing Day—when mounting NCAA allegations against Mumme made a change expedient. A veteran offensive line coach, Morriss will abandon Mumme's no-contact policy in practice and try to toughen up the Wildcats. Morriss' staff includes three coaches who were defensive coordinators last year, Goodner, Chris Lancaster and Rick Smith.

**Special teams:** Seth Hanson, 15-of-17 on field-goal tries last year, is Kentucky's most reliable player. He'll probably yield the punting chores to Glenn Pakulak, and now that Go-For-It Hal is gone, that becomes a more important job.

**Bottom line:** Morriss has to clean up Mumme's mess and try to keep fans coming to recently enlarged Commonwealth Stadium. A commitment to making the Wildcats tougher sounds good. So does a fresh approach to defense, in which Mumme had little interest. But a second consecutive winless SEC campaign is a strong possibility.



**STILL WAITING:** Johnson was a freshman All-American in 1998 and second-team All-SEC in '99, but UK fans want more.

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

## National Rank 98

**Coach:** Guy Morriss, first season

**Offensive coordinator:** Brent Pease (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** John Goodner (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** Spread

**Defensive scheme:** 4-2

**Starters lost:** 9

**Lettermen lost:** 18

**Lettermen returning:** 57

**Site:** Lexington, Ky.

**Stadium:** Commonwealth (grass, 65,000)

**Last league title won:** 1976 (tie)

**Last bowl appearance:** 1999

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 45

**2000 record:** 2-9; SEC

**East:** 0-8/6th

**Website:** www.ukathletics.com

### 2000 Results

at Louisville, L, 40-34 (OT)

South Florida, W, 27-9

Indiana, W, 41-34

at Florida, L, 59-31

at Mississippi, L, 35-17

South Carolina, L, 20-17

at LSU, L, 34-0

Georgia, L, 34-30

Mississippi State, L, 35-17

Vanderbilt, L, 24-20

at Tennessee, L, 59-20

### Schedule

S1—Louisville

S8—Ball State

S15—at Indiana

S22—Florida

S29—Mississippi

O6—at South Carolina

O13—Louisiana State

O20—at Georgia

N3—at Mississippi State

N10—at Vanderbilt

N17—Tennessee

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
TE	<b>Derek Smith</b>	6-6	265	Jr.
	Eric Arling	6-5	268	So.
T	<b>Matt Brown</b>	6-5	312	Sr.
	Jason Rollins	6-5	272	Fr.*
G	<b>Kip Sixbery</b>	6-4	320	Jr.
	Sylvester Miller	6-5	293	So.
C	Nolan DeVaughn	6-5	321	Sr.
	<b>Keith Chatelain</b>	6-5	306	Jr.
G	Josh Parrish	6-6	332	Sr.
	Nick Seitze	6-5	294	So.
T	<b>Antonio Hall</b>	6-5	300	So.
	Matt Huff	6-5	296	Fr.*
WR	Anthony Kelly	5-11	191	Sr.
	Brad Pyatt	6-0	180	Jr.
QB	<b>Jared Lorenzen</b>	6-4	275	So.
	Shane Boyd	6-2	239	Fr.*
RB	<b>Chad Scott</b>	5-10	178	So.
	Artose Pinner	5-11	218	Jr.
WR	Derek Abney	5-10	170	So.
	Aaron Boone	6-3	207	Jr.
WR	<b>Doug Allen</b>	5-10	174	Sr.
	Ernest Simms	5-8	167	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Chris Demaree	6-4	250	Sr.
	Otis Grigsby	6-4	250	Jr.
T	<b>Dewayne Robertson</b>	6-3	315	So.
	John Robinson	6-4	280	Jr.
T	<b>Jeremy Caudill</b>	6-3	296	So.
	Derrick Johnson	6-2	312	Jr.
E	Dennis Johnson	6-7	261	Sr.
	Daniel Burnett	6-5	269	Fr.*
ILB	<b>Ryan Murphy</b>	6-2	240	Sr.
	<b>Ronnie Riley</b>	6-2	231	Sr.
ILB	Jamal White	6-3	223	Sr.
	Anthony Stevenson	5-11	215	Fr.*
OS	Chris Gayton	6-2	205	Sr.
	Patrick Wiggins	6-0	200	Sr.
OS	<b>David Johnson</b>	6-0	203	Jr.
	Octavious Bond	6-1	209	So.
FS	Anthony Wajda	6-4	185	Sr.
	Quentus Cumby	6-1	204	Jr.
CB	Derrick Tatum	6-0	187	Jr.
	Leonard Burress	5-11	184	So.
CB	Earven Flowers	5-10	178	Fr.*
	Jeremy Bowie	5-10	187	Sr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Seth Hanson</b>	6-2	192	Sr.
P	Glenn Pakulak	6-3	228	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 1 Louisiana State

National Rank  
**10**

**Coach:** Nick Saban (8-4, 1 year; 51-30-1 overall, 7 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Jimbo Fisher (2nd season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Gary Gibbs (1st season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 7  
**Lettermen lost:** 13  
**Lettermen returning:** 44  
**Site:** Baton Rouge, La.  
**Stadium:** Tiger (grass, 91,600)  
**Last league title won:** 1988 (tie)  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1999  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 39  
**2000 record:** 8-4 (beat Georgia Tech in Peach Bowl); SEC West: 5-3/T2nd  
**Website:** www.LSUports.com

## 2000 Results

Western Carolina, W, 58-0  
 Houston, W, 28-13  
 at Auburn, L, 34-17  
 UAB, L, 13-10  
 Tennessee, W, 38-31 (OT)  
 at Florida, L, 41-9  
 Kentucky, W, 34-0  
 Mississippi St., W, 45-38 (OT)  
 Alabama, W, 30-28  
 at Mississippi, W, 20-9  
 at Arkansas, L, 14-3  
 Georgia Tech, W, 28-14

## Schedule

S1—Tulane  
 S8—Utah State  
 S15—Auburn  
**S29—at Tennessee**  
 O6—Florida  
 O13—at Kentucky  
 O20—at Mississippi State  
 O27—Mississippi  
 N3—at Alabama  
 N10—Middle Tennessee St.  
 N24—Arkansas

## Game of the year

**Sept. 29—at Tennessee**  
 The Tigers open with three home games, and if they take care of business, they'll go to Knoxville with confidence and momentum. LSU must prove it can win big road games before it can be considered a legitimate title contender. Few places in the nation are as hostile as Neyland Stadium. With a win there, the Tigers' stock would soar.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

No school may have better skill-position talent than LSU, but it's vital the offensive line matures. A strong front seven makes the defense tough.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★★★  
**Receivers:** ★★★★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★★★★  
**Secondary:** ★★

Key: based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jerel Myers	5-11	175	Jr.
	Josh Reed	5-11	200	Jr.
T	Rodney Reed	6-4	284	So.
	Terry Phillips	6-6	292	Jr.
G	John Young	6-3	293	Jr.
	Kade Comeaux	6-5	326	Fr.*
C	Rob Sale	6-2	319	Jr.
	Chris Henry	6-5	298	Fr.*
G	Dwayne Pierce	6-3	316	Sr.
	John Young	6-3	293	Jr.
T	Jason Baggett	6-6	289	Sr.
	Brad Smalling	6-7	305	Jr.
TE	Robert Royal	6-5	231	Sr.
	Joe Domingaux	6-5	256	Sr.
WR	Reggie Robinson	6-2	196	Sr.
	Jack Hunt	6-0	188	So.
QB	Rohan Davey	6-3	239	Sr.
	Marcus Randall	6-2	220	Fr.*
RB	LaBrandon Toefield	6-0	224	So.
	Devery Henderson	6-0	187	So.
FB	Solomon Lee	6-1	225	Jr.
	Ryan O'Neal	6-0	226	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Kendrick Allen	6-6	300	Jr.
	Kyle Kipps	6-4	256	Sr.
T	Muskingum Barnes	6-2	265	Sr.
	Howard Green	6-2	319	Sr.
T	Chad Lavalais	6-3	291	So.
	Byron Dawson	6-2	304	Jr.
E	Jarvis Green	6-3	265	Sr.
	Bryce Wyatt	6-4	232	So.
OLB	Jeremy Lawrence	6-3	222	Jr.
	Lionel Turner	6-0	235	Fr.*
MLB	Trev Faulk	6-3	225	Jr.
	Jason LeDoux	6-3	232	So.
OLB	Bradie James	6-3	228	Jr.
	Walter Moreham	6-0	220	Sr.
CB	Robert Davis	5-10	180	Sr.
	Demetrius Hoofkin	5-11	172	Jr.
SS	Lionel Thomas	6-0	195	Jr.
	Domanick Davis	5-10	207	Jr.
FS	Ryan Clark	5-11	185	Sr.
	Damien James	5-11	183	Jr.
CB	Erin Damond	5-10	176	So.
	Norman LeJeune	6-0	188	Jr.*

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	John Corbello	5-11	222	Jr.
P	Donnie Jones	6-3	217	So.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

**Offensive philosophy:** Josh Booty is giving the NFL a shot, and senior Rohan Davey is now LSU's unquestioned starting quarterback. But don't expect major changes in the offensive scheme. LSU will continue to run out of the I-formation, but it also can go with one-back sets and spread the field with three and four wide receivers. Jimbo Fisher will continue to make the calls as coordinator and has plenty of talent to work with.

**Offensive stars:** Davey came off the bench to rally the Tigers to a Peach Bowl victory against Georgia Tech, after which Booty decided to bypass his final season of eligibility. Obviously, Booty, a Louisiana high school legend, saw LSU's future staring him in the face. And he wasn't a part of it. Davey, who is built like a linebacker and is tough to bring down when he scrambles, is clearly LSU's leader. When he's in the game, good things happen. He's an extremely accurate passer who threw just one interception to go with seven touchdown passes last season. The Tigers obviously respond well to Davey, but he has been injury prone and needs to show he can play game in and game out. Davey has a talented group of receivers to work with, led by junior Josh Reed, a converted tailback, and Jerel Myers. Reed uses his running back moves to make a lot of yards after the catch and can turn a short pass into a big play. Senior Robert Royal is the SEC's best all-around tight end. He's a solid blocker but athletic enough to catch and run like a wideout. Royal also is good at finding holes in the coverage and getting open over the middle. Heralded tight end recruit Marcus Spears enters the mix in the fall and will give Davey another option. Sophomore

TB LaBrandon Toefield is a speedy and powerful runner who should be much improved in his second season as a starter. A knee injury sidelined him as a high school senior and caused him to redshirt as a true freshman. He is hard to tackle and has good moves, and, when healthy, is one of the SEC's top backs. Senior G Dwayne Pierce is a physical blocker who does equally well on running and passing plays.

**Defensive concerns:** Davey's durability and the lack of experience at quarterback behind him are major concerns. Davey has been sidelined by knee and ankle injuries in the past. The Tigers need him to stay in games, because he's their only quarterback who has played in a college game. Redshirt freshmen Matt Mauck and Marcus Randall are competing for the backup job, and it would be tough on the Tigers if they're forced into action. When Davey is healthy, the Tigers can beat anyone in the league. If he's injured, every game would be an adventure. The line, which was a patchwork lineup in many games last season because of injuries, has to develop quality depth. The Tigers went into spring desperate to find a new center to replace the versatile Louis Williams, who could play every line position. Junior starter Rob Sale has moved from guard to center, and his experience will help the transition in the middle three of the line.

**Defensive philosophy:** Gary Gibbs, the former Oklahoma defensive coordinator and head coach who helped turn around Georgia's defense last season, is now LSU's coordinator. He's a nice pickup. Georgia went from last in the SEC in total defense in 1999 to fifth last year under Gibbs. The Tigers also showed marked improvement last year after dumping their read-and-react defense and becoming more aggressive. Gibbs will keep LSU in its 4-3 scheme, and the Tigers' improvement should continue because of him and the return of so many experienced players.

**Defensive stars:** Junior LBs Trev Faulk and Bradie James are the best linebacker combination in the SEC and may be the best in the nation. Both have great speed and can hit and always seem to be around the ball. Faulk is more of a run stuffer, and James is a stronger pass rusher whose five sacks led LSU last season. Both make plays all the over the field. Senior FS Ryan Clark is the vocal leader of the secondary as well as a sure tackler, and he has five intercep-

## TSNumber

**3**

Defensive coordinators at LSU in coach Nick Saban's brief tenure. John

Thompson, now Arkansas' defensive coordinator, held the job for three weeks after the 1999 season before quitting. Saban hired Phil Elmassian from Wisconsin, but he left after one season. Saban turned to Gary Gibbs, who needed a job after Jim Donnan was fired at Georgia.

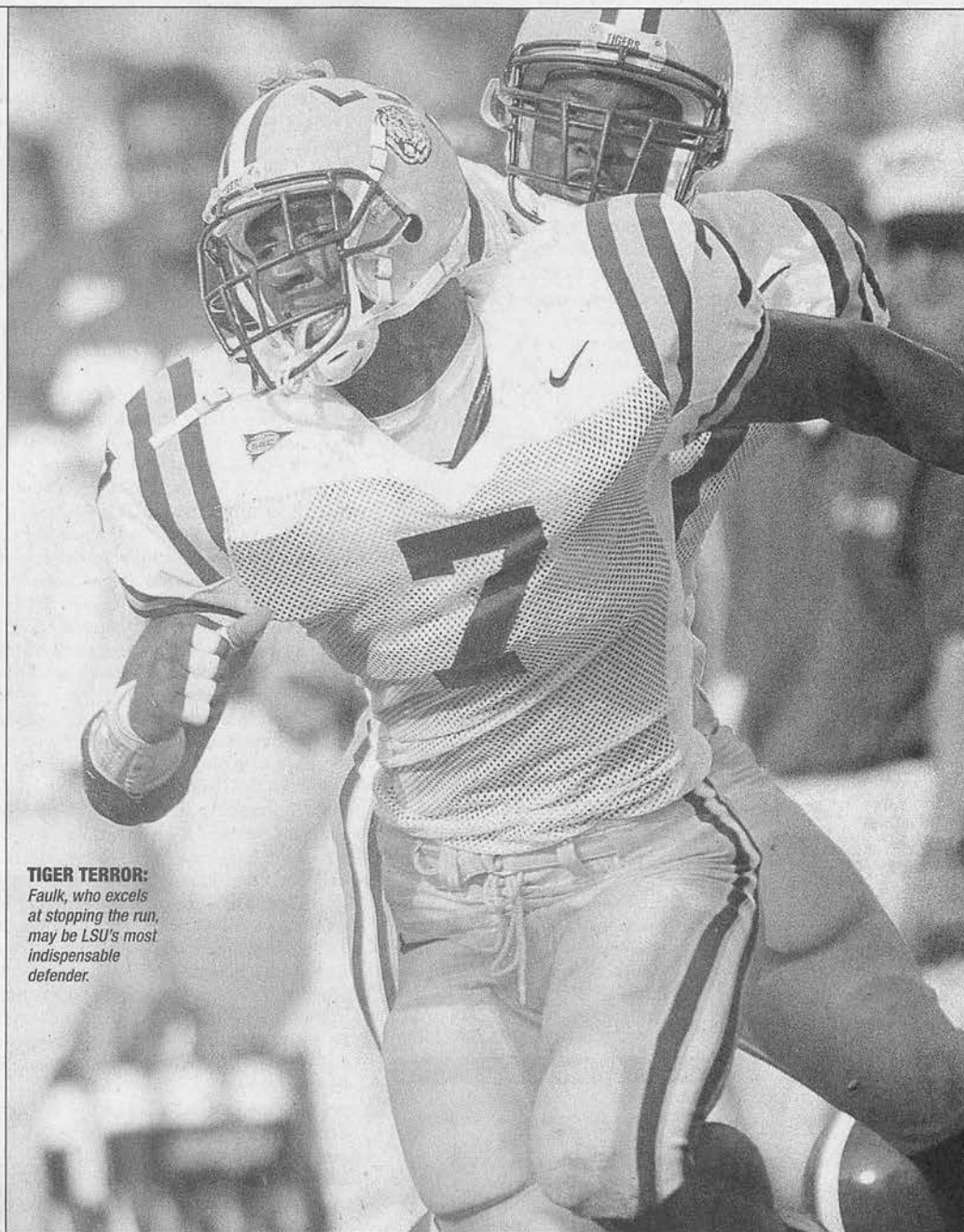


tions the past two seasons. Senior DE Jarvis Green was slowed by injuries last season and had just one sack. He should be ready to return to the form that resulted in a combined 15 sacks his freshman and sophomore seasons. The Tigers are desperate for speed and pressure from the edge, and Green must provide that to help out the secondary. Expect Gibbs to use different schemes and stunts to free him up in one-on-one rush situations.

**Defensive concerns:** What else? Pressure. The Tigers have to get more heat on the quarterback. They had an SEC-worst 11 sacks last season and too many times gave up big plays and long drives because of their lack of a pass rush. Junior LB Jeremy Lawrence has the speed and build to pressure the quarterback and should be better after learning the defensive system last season. LSU is hoping he can further develop under Gibbs. Junior DE Kenderick Allen also has the talent to help as a pass rusher but needs to develop more intensity and consistency. A healthy Green should also help. The Tigers must replace Fred Booker at right cornerback and are counting on inexperienced but talented sophomore Erin Damond, a former wide receiver, to come through.

**Special teams:** In the spring, junior Domanick Davis switched from running back to defensive back, where he may play in nickel situations this season, but his primary role will continue to be as a dangerous kickoff and punt returner. Junior K John Corbello finished last season with a career-best 49-yard field goal in the Peach Bowl. Although he has a strong leg, he needs to become more reliable on shorter kicks. Sophomore P Donnie Jones had 17 kicks inside the opponents' 20-yard line last season, but he needs to improve on his 38.1-yard average.

**Coaching staff:** Second-year coach Nick Saban quickly turned the Tigers around last year after back-to-back losing seasons. But Saban has to show he can sustain success, which has been a problem for his predecessors. That's why Saban is LSU's seventh coach in a 20-year span. Saban also hopes to do a better job of retaining assistant coaches. None of Michigan State's assistants followed him to LSU last year, and four Tigers assistants left after last season for jobs at West Virginia, Ohio State and Michigan. When linebackers coach Sal Sunseri resigned, Saban publicly criticized his decision and said he was disappointed Sunseri didn't make a commitment to the university. But even with the defections, Saban has assembled



**TIGER TERROR:** Faulk, who excels at stopping the run, may be LSU's most indispensable defender.

another good staff. New additions include Gibbs, George Yarno (offensive line), Will Muschamp (linebackers), and Charlie Harbison (defensive backs).

**Bottom line:** With 17 returning starters from an 8-4 team, the SEC's top-rated recruiting class and seven home games, the Tigers are the clear favorite in the SEC West Division and could play in a major bowl game. The key, though, is keeping Davey healthy. If he goes down, the Tigers may go down with him. The schedule is favorable. LSU plays last year's division winners Florida and Auburn at home. Tiger Stadium will be wild in October when the Gators visit, and a win there could give LSU the momentum and confidence it needs to finish out the season and make plans for Atlanta and its first SEC championship game. All that would be left then is a likely rematch with Florida and a potential BCS bowl game. But the way things have played out recently for the Tigers, nothing is certain. Especially winning the West Division. LSU has been one of the nation's biggest underachievers since the mid-1990s and needs to shake that tag if it's going to break through and join the national elite.

STEVE FRANZ / LSU



# 2 Mississippi State

**National Rank**  
**20**

**Coach:** Jackie Sherrill  
(67-48-2, 10 years; 172-93-4 overall, 23 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Sparky Woods (3rd season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Joe Lee Dunn (5th season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple I

**Defensive scheme:** 50

**Starters lost:** 12

**Lettermen lost:** 23

**Lettermen returning:** 45

**Site:** Starkville, Miss.

**Stadium:** Davis Wade Stadium at Scott Field (grass, 45,256)

**Last league title won:** 1941

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1997

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 58

**2000 record:** 8-4 (beat Texas A&M in Independence Bowl);

**SEC West:** 4-4/T3rd

**Website:**

www.mstateathletics.com

## 2000 Results

at Memphis, W, 17-3

at Brigham Young, W, 44-28

at South Carolina, L, 23-19

Florida, W, 47-35

Auburn, W, 17-10

at LSU, L, 45-38

Middle Tenn. State, W, 61-35

at Kentucky, W, 35-17

Alabama, W, 29-7

Arkansas, L, 17-10

at Mississippi, L, 45-30

Texas A&M, W, 43-41

## Schedule

S1—Memphis

S15—Brigham Young

S22—South Carolina

S29—at Florida

O6—at Auburn

O13—Troy State

O20—Louisiana State

N3—Kentucky

N10—at Alabama

N17—at Arkansas

N22—Mississippi

## Game of the year

**Oct. 20—LSU**

This could be the game that ultimately decides the SEC West Division championship. Mississippi State has the memory of last year's overtime loss at Baton Rouge still fresh in its memory. It was that game, as much as anything, that cost the Bulldogs another shot at Florida in the SEC championship game. This game might, too.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The Bulldogs have a loaded backfield, but a passing game must develop. Junior college transfers must help the defensive line rebuild.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★★★

**Receivers:** ★★

**Offensive line:** ★★★★★

**Defensive line:** ★★

**Linebackers:** ★★★★★

**Secondary:** ★★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Terrell Grindle</b>	5-10	180	Jr.
	Clarence Parker	6-2	203	Sr.
T	<b>Kendrick Fairchild</b>	6-4	318	Sr.
	Carl Hutchins	6-5	306	Jr.
G	<b>Courtney Lee</b>	6-4	336	Sr.
	Kyle Wallace	6-5	320	Jr.
C	<b>Tommy Watson</b>	6-4	303	Sr.
	Kevin Sijansky	6-2	278	Jr.
G	Donald Tucker	6-4	340	So.
	Michael Allen	6-3	340	Jr.
T	Derrick Thompson	6-6	304	So.
	David Stewart	6-6	294	Fr.*
TE	<b>Donald Lee</b>	6-4	248	Jr.
	Aaron Lumpkin	6-4	260	So.
WR	Justin Jenkins	6-1	208	So.
	Darius Tubbs	6-2	194	Jr.
QB	<b>Wayne Madkin</b>	6-4	204	Sr.
	Kevin Fant	6-2	212	So.
RB	<b>Dicenzo Miller</b>	5-10	207	Sr.
	Dontae Walker	5-10	225	Jr.
FB	<b>Justin Griffith</b>	5-11	221	Jr.
	Darnell Jones*	5-11	242	Fr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Conner Stephens</b>	6-4	250	Sr.
	Ivan Billie	6-2	233	Jr.
T	<b>Dorsett Davis</b>	6-6	314	Sr.
	Jadice Moore	6-3	293	Fr.*
NG	Demotto Youngblood	6-4	240	Fr.*
	Greg Jack	6-2	230	Jr.
RT	Lennie Day	6-3	248	So.
	Ifem Ezekwe	6-3	265	Jr.
E	Dwayne Robertson	6-0	213	Sr.
	Robert Spivey	6-1	240	Fr.*
LB	<b>Mario Haggan</b>	6-3	253	Jr.
	Jason Clark	6-1	236	So.
S	<b>Pig Prather</b>	6-2	195	Sr.
	Bryan Shumaker	5-7	185	So.
S	Shawn Byrdson	5-9	181	Sr.
	Anthony Bryant	5-10	191	Sr.
CB	Korey Banks	5-11	172	Jr.
	Jonathan Bell	5-10	180	Fr.*
FS	<b>Josh Morgan</b>	6-1	194	Jr.
	David Mooneyham	6-0	195	So.
CB	Marco Minor	6-4	205	Sr.
	Slovakia Griffith	5-11	180	Fr.*

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	John Michael Martin	5-9	161	Sr.
P	Jared Cook	6-2	186	Jr.

**Returning starters in bold** \* Redshirt

**Offensive philosophy:** Mississippi State has achieved tremendous balance under offensive coordinator Sparky Woods, which was evident last season when the Bulldogs averaged an SEC-best 193.8 yards rushing, but also averaged 192.5 yards passing. The team used to lean heavily on the run and then throw deep if necessary, but now there is an improved passing game out of the I-formation to go along with the productive rushing attack. Look for that balance to continue with so many key players returning on offense. More than anything, Woods and coach Jackie Sherrill don't want the offense to make mistakes. The way the Bulldogs play defense, the offense simply needs to play it safe and grind it out. If the opportunity for a big play is there, so is the ability to go after it.

**Offensive stars:** Senior QB Wayne Madkin may not make your All-SEC team, but he's 23-10 as a starter for the Bulldogs and has improved immensely as a passer the previous three seasons while remaining a dangerous runner if he has to scramble. Madkin's maturity should be a huge plus for the Bulldogs at the position where experience counts the most. Senior Dicenzo Miller and junior Dontae Walker give Mississippi State the best 1-2 tailback punch in the SEC, and they're able to help keep each other fresh by sharing the work load. Redshirt freshman TB Fred Reid is faster than both and will add a breakaway threat to the running attack. Senior Tommy Watson is a physical and versatile offensive lineman who is making the switch to center this season after being a standout guard. He is bigger than most centers at 303 pounds and will be an anchor for the line in the middle. Junior TE Donald Lee is a good blocker and dependable receiver who is a key in the controlled passing game.

**Offensive concerns:** The Bulldogs need some of their inexperienced wide receivers to come through and try and establish a reliable deep threat to help stretch the defense. Sophomore Justin Jenkins and redshirt freshman Antonio Hargro may be able to fill that receiver role, but have to show they can be prime-time players. Junior Terrell Grindle is the Bulldogs' most experienced receiver, but he can have problems catching the ball consistently. With the loss of Kenny Williams, senior FB Justin Griffith, who has excelled as a receiver out of the backfield, needs to become a more physical blocker to help keep the running game going. Watson's move to center means Mississippi State has to find a new starting guard, likely either sophomore Donald Tucker or junior college transfer Michael Allen. Tucker is talented, but lacks maturity and motivation at times. Allen won't join the team until August, so he'll have to make up for lost practice time while making the adjustment from junior college ball to the SEC.

**Defensive philosophy:** The adage is defense should stop the run first, but veteran defensive coordinator Joe Lee Dunn believes that with the way offenses have evolved, stopping the pass is paramount. That's why the Bulldogs use a scheme that features five defensive backs. Dunn has been able to mold players who are a combination safety/outside linebacker and can play effectively in run support and pass coverage. Dunn also has an unorthodox blitzing scheme that confuses opposing quarterbacks about when the Bulldogs are coming and when they're not and may feature three, four or five down linemen at times. In a game a couple of years ago, Mississippi State opened with one defensive lineman, and at other times Dunn has used primarily one linebacker. It's wacky and it's weird, but it's a big reason the Bulldogs have become the most consistent defensive team in the league the past few years.

**Defensive stars:** Senior DT Dorsett Davis is the Bulldogs' lone returning starter on the interior defensive line and he'll be counted on heavily to stop the run and get pressure on the quarterback. Junior LB Mario Haggan emerged as a star last season and should be more

## TSNumber

**6**

Bowl appearances the team has made since Jackie Sherrill became coach in 1991. He guided the Bulldogs to the Liberty (1991), Peach (1993, '95, '99), Cotton (1999) and Independence (2000) Bowls. The Bulldogs had played in bowl games just five times (1937 and 1941 Orange, 1963 Liberty and 1974 and 1980 Sun Bowls) before Sherrill came to town.





**DASHING:**  
Prather's speed is  
an asset in the  
secondary and on  
kick returns.

BOB LEVERONE/TSN

consistent in his second season as a starter. He's extremely mature, has great speed to chase the ball and has a knack for creating turnovers. Senior SS Pig Prather and junior FS Josh Morgan are both big-play guys. Prather, a converted running back, has great speed and quickness and has become a good tackler. Morgan lacks speed, but always seems to be in the right position to make a play — which is exactly what Dunn wants from his free safety. Senior DE Conner Stephens will put a lot of pressure on the quarterback from the outside and must step up in his last season. He has loads of potential and all the physical tools. But he needs to play more consistently and with more of an edge.

**Defensive concerns:** CB Korey Banks, a junior college All-American and one of a handful of key signees for the Bulldogs in February, has been given jersey No. 2 — the same number worn by smack-talking All-American Fred Smoot the last two seasons. But can Banks deliver like Smoot? He has the speed (4.3 in the 40), but has to prove he can cover the great receivers he'll face week to week in the SEC. The defensive line lacks experience and depth. If newcomers don't come through to develop an effective rotation, then the defensive line could wear down in the second half of games and the back seven will be forced to make more plays in the running game.

**Special teams:** No one does it better than the Bulldogs in the SEC, and few do it as well in the nation. Sherrill has stressed special teams everywhere he has coached, and believes points in the kicking game should be squeezed out every time you're on the field. The coverage teams and punt and kick block teams should be a strength again with Milas Randle and Jonathan Bell leading the way to smother returnees and force turnovers. Redshirt freshman Ray Ray Bivines and Banks will be speedy return men, and the Bulldogs usually use defensive starters on the punt and kick block teams. There is, however, one key question with the special teams: How to replace dependable K Scott Westerfield? Sophomore John Michael Marlin, who kicked off last season, may not have the consistency to handle field goal and extra point attempts. Redshirt freshman P Jared Cook has a strong leg, but will be kicking in college for the first time.

**Coaching staff:** Sherrill has been Mississippi State's coach nearly as long as he was at Pittsburgh and Texas A&M combined. Sherrill coached the Panthers and Aggies for 12 seasons, and he is entering his 11th season at Mississippi State. He is second in tenure among SEC coaches to Florida's Steve Spurrier and has turned the Bulldogs into consistent winners while becoming Mississippi State's all-time winningest coach. It can't be easy recruiting to a small southern town such as Starkville, yet Sherrill and his staff consistently get big-time blue chippers from high school and junior college to come and play the Bulldogs' hard-nosed style. Sherrill has a top-notch staff, led by Woods and Dunn, who both have head coaching experience.

The one thing left for Sherrill to accomplish at Mississippi State is win an SEC championship. That hasn't been done at Mississippi State since 1941.

**Bottom line:** Mississippi State is loaded with experience on offense and you know that even with some questions on defense, the Bulldogs will get it done with Dunn. The schedule is built for a fast start with three home games to open the season before back-to-back road games at defending SEC champion Florida and defending West Division champion Auburn. The Gators will be ready for payback after last year's whipping in Starkville, but Mississippi State has proved it can run on Florida, which has issues with its defensive interior. The Bulldogs also have the benefit of seven home games this season, which will help in what is expected to be a wild race for the West Division. This is a team that should challenge for the West title and is good enough to win the overall SEC championship. The big hurdle for Mississippi State is two road games against the league's preseason favorites Florida and LSU. Those also happen to be two of the toughest places to play in the nation. At worst, the Bulldogs should have their fourth consecutive winning season and bowl appearance. At best, they could be rematched with Florida in the SEC championship game on a neutral field.



# 3 Alabama

**National Rank**  
**22**

**Coach:** Dennis Franchione  
(1st season; 138-65-2 overall,  
18 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Les  
Koenning Jr. (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Carl  
Torbusch (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 9

**Lettermen lost:** 29

**Lettermen returning:** 39

**Site:** Tuscaloosa, Ala.

**Stadium:** Bryant-Denny

(grass, 83,818)

**Last league title won:** 1999

**Last bowl appearance:** 1999

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 3

**2000 record:** 3-8. SEC West:

3-5/T5th

**Website:** www.rolltide.com

## 2000 Results

at UCLA, L, 35-24

Vanderbilt, W, 28-10

Southern Miss, L, 21-0

at Arkansas, L, 28-21

South Carolina, W, 27-17

Mississippi, W, 45-7

at Tennessee, L, 20-10

Central Florida, L, 40-38

at LSU, L, 30-28

at Mississippi St., L, 29-7

Auburn, L, 9-0

## Schedule

**S1—UCLA**

S8—at Vanderbilt

S15—Southern Miss

S22—Arkansas

S29—at South Carolina

O6—Texas-El Paso

O13—at Mississippi

O20—Tennessee

N3—LSU

N10—Mississippi State

N17—at Auburn

## Game of the year

**Sept. 1—UCLA**

Although Alabama-Auburn arguably is the country's most heated rivalry, the Tide's game of the year might be the season opener against the Bruins. It is the first game of the Dennis Franchione coaching era, and how Alabama does against the Bruins will set the tone for the season—just as it did in last year's loss at UCLA.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The offense must settle on a quarter-back to take advantage of the cache of skill talent. If everyone plays hard, the defense will be good.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★

**Receivers:** ★★★

**Offensive line:** ★★

**Defensive line:** ★★★★★

**Linebackers:** ★★★

**Secondary:** ★★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

Offense				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Freddie Milons	5-11	191	Sr.
	Michael James	5-11	167	Jr.
T	Dante Ellington	6-6	354	Jr.
	Lannis Baxley	6-7	314	Jr.
G	Marico Portis	6-3	308	Jr.
	Justin Smiley	6-3	292	Fr.*
C	Alonzo Ephriam	6-4	288	Jr.
	Evan Mathis	6-5	278	Fr.
G	Dennis Alexander	6-6	339	So.
	Danny Martz	6-4	300	Fr.
T	Wesley Britt	6-8	304	Fr.
	Atlas Herrion	6-4	299	Jr.
TE	Terry Jones Jr.	6-4	265	Sr.
	Theo Sanders	6-3	248	Jr.
WR	Antonio Carter	5-9	185	Jr.
	Triandos Luke	6-0	190	So.
QB	Andrew Zow	6-2	222	Sr.
	Tyler Watts	6-3	217	Jr.
RB	Ahmaad Galloway	6-1	228	Jr.
	Brandon Miree	6-2	233	So.
FB	Donnie Lowe	6-2	247	So.
	Nick Signalgo	6-3	231	Fr.*

Defense				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Kindal Moorehead	6-3	293	Jr.
	N. McKay-Loescher	6-4	240	So.
T	Jarret Johnson	6-4	281	Jr.
	Derek Sanders	6-5	283	Jr.
T	David Daniel	6-0	264	Sr.
	Anthony Bryant	6-3	349	So.
E	Aries Monroe	6-4	231	Sr.
	Antwan Odom	6-5	247	So.
LB	Victor Ellis	6-2	232	Sr.
	Cornelius Wortham	6-1	211	So.
MLB	Saleem Rasheed	6-3	217	Jr.
	Darius Gilbert	6-3	253	Sr.
ROV	Brooks Daniels	6-2	184	So.
	Jason Rawls	6-0	215	Fr.*
CB	Hirchel Bolden	6-0	196	Jr.
	Carlos Andrews	6-0	200	Fr.*
SS	Shontua Ray	5-11	212	Sr.
	Waine Bacon	5-10	195	Jr.
FS	Charles Jobes	6-0	175	So.
	Reggie Myles	6-0	184	Sr.
CB	Gerald Dixon	5-11	182	Jr.
	Carlos Andrews	6-0	200	Fr.

Special Teams				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Neal Thomas	5-11	183	Sr.
P	Lane Bearden	6-2	198	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** Gene Stallings isn't back as Alabama's coach, but it might look as if he were because of the offense. New Crimson Tide coach Dennis Franchione didn't play for Bear Bryant, but he's like a Bear disciple in terms of philosophy. On offense, Alabama will stress controlling the ball and limiting turnovers to keep from putting its defense in bad field position. Look for the Tide to bring back the full-back and have a balanced running and passing offense out of the I-formation.

**Offensive stars:** Junior QB Tyler Watts appears to be recovered from a knee injury that sidelined him for the latter part of last season, and he is the best bet to lead Alabama's offense. He has a better grasp of the offense than senior Andrew Zow. Watts may not make as many big plays as Zow, but he makes better decisions and avoids bad plays, and that counts for a lot with Franchione. If Watts and Zow struggle, freshman Brodie Croyle is a possibility. Remember Freddie Milons? He was dynamic as a receiver, kick returner and running quarterback for the Tide's 1999 SEC championship team, but he disappeared last season after returning the opening punt for a touchdown against UCLA. Milons seemed to have trouble finding his niche in an ever-changing offense last year, but he's a senior now and hungry for success. Look for Milons to shine again at flanker this season in what should be a more consistent game plan from week to week. Junior TB Ahmaad Galloway is Alabama's leading returning rusher, but sophomore Brandon Miree is the Tide's most versatile tailback and could step up big. Senior TE Terry Jones Jr. has recovered from a knee injury that sidelined him last season and should be a valuable weapon in the short passing game with his speed and good hands.

**Offensive concerns:** The line must be rebuilt with the loss of three starters. Junior LT Dante Ellington, the lone returning starter, hasn't progressed the way he was expected to after starting as a true freshman in 1999. He needs to get in better shape, be more dedicated and become a leader in the group. If the line doesn't come together and develop into a stable unit, then it will be tough for Alabama to be effective. Sophomore FB Donnie Lowe, a converted linebacker who could win the job in the fall, needs to show he can handle the move to offense because the position will play a larger role this season. There likely will continue to be a quarterback controversy at Alabama again involving Watts, Zow and perhaps even Croyle. The Tide players should be used to this by now, but they need to make sure it doesn't become disruptive. Although the Tide won't be flinging the ball around, it must get more production from its passing game after ranking last in the SEC and 104th nationally in passing efficiency last season. A key will be whether the line develops enough to provide adequate protection and whether Milons can return to his 1999 form.

**Defensive philosophy:** Carl Torbusch may not have done well as a head coach at North Carolina, where he was promoted to replace Mack Brown and then fired after last season. But Torbusch is an outstanding coordinator and should excel in that role for Alabama. He will use a 4-3 defense that is well-suited to the team's talented group of linemen and linebackers. When Torbusch was at UNC, his defenses were always based on fast, physical linebackers and quick rush ends. Don't expect much of a change here. Look for the Tide to be solid, tough to run on and have the ability to pressure the quarterback without having to constantly blitz.

**Defensive stars:** One thing is certain: Franchione and his staff are shaking things up—especially on defense. Position changes and personnel moves highlighted the first few months in Tuscaloosa. Among the more high-profile moves to get the best players on the field, junior Kindal Moorehead moved from end to tackle, then back to end again. Moorehead, who missed last season with a torn Achilles' tendon but was fine in the spring, wasn't thrilled about the move originally. But he has the bulk (293 pounds) to play tackle and could still play some

## TSNumber

**34**

Alabama's success rate (in percentage) on third-down conversions last season, when the Tide

ranked 11th in the category in the SEC. When Alabama won the SEC championship in 1999, it led the conference in third-down conversions with a 43.3-percent success rate. Last season, the Tide's offense was plagued by indecision by the coaching staff.



there. Junior DE Kenny King, who battled shoulder injuries last season, is a top-flight pass rusher when he's healthy. Another key position change is with junior Saleem Rasheed, who has moved from outside to middle linebacker. Rasheed was one of the nation's best linebackers as a freshman but slipped last season and needs to regain the form that landed him on many All-American lists. Rasheed has great speed and hits hard and should be in on a lot of plays. Junior CB Gerald Dixon is the Tide's best coverage man.

**Defensive concerns:** Dixon is a potential star in the secondary, where the Tide will need improved play from senior Ss Reggie Myles and Shontua Ray. Myles, who looked like a budding star two years ago, has the ability to make big plays. But he also has shown a knack for giving up too many big plays, which is why he lost his starting job last season. The Tide needs Myles to be more consistent and needs Ray to show he can be a playmaker. Solid play in the secondary would enable the team to use various blitz packages. That pressure would lead to turnovers, where the Tide fell woefully short last season. In the SEC, only Arkansas (16 takeaways) came up with fewer takeaways than Alabama, which finished with 18 (6 fumble recoveries, 12 interceptions). Senior Victor Ellis led the Tide in tackles last season playing middle linebacker, but he has become part of the position shakeup. He was switched to the outside in the spring and now must concentrate more on coverage instead of pursuing the ball. It's unclear whether Ellis can play as effectively on the outside, where he'll have to keep up with running backs in pass coverage.

**Special teams:** Senior Neal Thomas is a solid kicker. He hit 9 of 13 field-goal attempts last season and all 27 extra-point attempts. The Tide just needs to give him more scoring opportunities. Junior P Lane Bearden ranked 45th nationally (40.1-yard average), but Alabama has the players for strong coverage and last season ranked 11th nationally in net punting (38.4). Milons gives the Tide a dangerous returner, and the team will be counting on him for big plays. Simply put, when he's on, there are few players in the country who are as dangerous.

**Coaching staff:** Considering all the big names who turned down Alabama's overtures during last winter's coaching search—Butch Davis, Walt Harris, Tommy Bowden—the Tide was fortunate to land a coach of Franchione's caliber. If he can turn around programs at New Mexico and TCU, he surely can win big at Alabama. The question is: Can he handle all the pressure that goes with it at the Capstone? Franchione and his veteran staff are demanding, thor-



**MAN ON THE MOVE:** Rasheed, who is making the transition to middle linebacker from the outside, has the speed and hitting ability to make a lot of plays.

ough, organized and on the same page. In other words, all the things that former coach Mike DuBose and his assistants weren't. DuBose's off-field problems and deficiencies as a head coach infected the entire team. The players, hungry to atone for last season's 3-8 debacle, have responded well to the new coaches and are eager for redemption. There was a sense of newness in spring practice, and the fresh start has made for intense competition.

**Bottom line:** Don't be surprised if Alabama challenges for the West title and is playing for the SEC championship in Atlanta. Believe it or not, the Tide is loaded with talent—even if that's one of the reasons the NCAA was camped out in Tuscaloosa in the offseason—and now it has a proven head coach to lead the program. More than anything, the fresh start should do wonders. However, the window of opportunity could be closing fast.

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN



# 4 Auburn

**National Rank**  
**36**

**Coach:** Tommy Tuberville  
(14-10, 2 years; 39-30 overall,  
4 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Noel  
Mazzone (3rd season)

**Defensive coordinator:** John  
Lovett (3rd season)

**Offensive scheme:** Pro set

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 11

**Lettermen lost:** 22

**Lettermen returning:** 40

**Site:** Auburn, Ala. **Stadium:**

Jordan-Hare (grass, 85,612)

**Last league title won:** 1941

**Last time didn't go to bowl:**  
1997

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 48

**2000 record:** 9-4 (lost to

Michigan in Citrus Bowl). SEC

West: 6-2/1st

**Website:**

www.auburn.edu/athletics

## 2000 Results

Wyoming, W, 35-21

at Ole Miss, W, 35-27

LSU, W, 34-17

Northern Illinois, W, 31-14

Vanderbilt, W, 33-0

at Mississippi St., L, 17-10

at Florida, L, 38-7

Louisiana Tech, W, 38-28

Arkansas, W, 21-19

Georgia, W, 29-26

at Alabama, W, 9-0

Florida, L, 28-6

Michigan, L, 31-28

## Schedule

S1—Ball State

S8—Ole Miss

S15—at LSU

S22—at Syracuse

S29—at Vanderbilt

O6—Mississippi State

O13—Florida

O20—Louisiana Tech

O27—at Arkansas

N10—at Georgia

N17—Alabama

N14—South Carolina

N21—at Florida State

## Game of the year

**Sept. 8—Mississippi**

Auburn-Ole Miss is big of late  
because of Tommy Tuberville's  
connections to both schools.

This year's game is big  
because it will be Auburn's  
SEC home opener and a  
must-win, considering the  
Tigers' next three games are  
on the road—including trips  
to LSU and Syracuse. Auburn  
can't afford to start SEC play  
with a home loss to Ole Miss.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The Tigers took a bit hit in the back-  
field and at receiver. But a strong line  
on both sides of the ball should help  
Auburn make it through the rough  
spots early.

**Offensive backfield:** ★

**Receivers:** ★

**Offensive line:** ★★★

**Defensive line:** ★★★

**Linebackers:** ★★

**Secondary:** ★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Marcel Willis	6-1	182	Jr.
	Brian Henderson	5-11	174	So.
T	<b>Kendall Simmons</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Ryan Broome	6-7	298	Fr.*
G	<b>Hart McGarry</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Nate French	6-3	297	Fr.*
C	<b>Mike Pucillo</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Danny Lindsey	6-3	290	Fr.*
G	Monreko Crittenden	6-5	344	So.
	Ryan Hockett	6-3	285	Jr.
T	Mark Pera	6-6	295	So.
	Rick Trucks	6-7	330	Fr.*
TE	<b>Lorenzo Diamond</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Robert Johnson	6-6	271	So.
WR	Tim Carter	6-0	197	Sr.
	Trevor Bowman	6-3	205	Fr.*
QB	Daniel Cobb	6-4	229	Sr.
	Jason Campbell	6-5	213	Fr.*
TB	Ronnie Brown	6-1	228	Fr.*
	Casinius Moore	6-0	220	So.
FB	Brandon Johnson	6-0	231	So.
	Michael Owens	6-0	225	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Javor Mills</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Alton Moore	6-6	263	Sr.
T	<b>DeMarco McNeil</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Marcus Johnson	6-2	283	Fr.*
T	Spencer Johnson	6-3	273	So.
	Marcus White	6-3	277	So.
E	<b>Reggie Torbor</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>So.</b>
	James Callier	6-1	246	Sr.
LB	Dontarrious Thomas	6-4	225	So.
	<b>Tavarreus Pounds</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
LB	Mark Brown	6-1	239	Jr.
	Mayo Sowell	6-2	219	Fr.*
LB	Roshard Gilyard	5-9	208	So.
	Victor Horn	6-0	231	Fr.*
CB	Roderick Hood	5-10	192	Jr.
	Junior Rosegreen	6-1	180	Fr.*
SS	<b>Rashaud Walker</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Ronaldo Attimy	5-10	188	Jr.
FS	<b>Stanford Simmons</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Donnay Young	6-0	191	Fr.*
CB	Travaris Robinson	5-10	187	Jr.
	Lamel Ages	5-9	165	Fr.*

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Damon Duval</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
P	<b>Damon Duval</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** The loss of TB Rudi Johnson and FB Heath Evans, who bypassed their senior seasons for the NFL, tears the heart out of a running game that carried the Tigers to the SEC West championship. The Tigers aren't likely to go back to their level of 1999, when they ranked 112th nationally in rushing offense, but they'll have to rely more on their quarterback to make some big plays in the passing game. Auburn still will run out of the I-formation, and Noel Mazzone is back as the coordinator and play-caller, but expect the Tigers to go with some one-back sets, spread the field and use sprint-outs because they have more athletic quarterbacks. The Tigers have two good tight ends in junior Lorenzo Diamond and sophomore Robert Johnson and will need to use them in the short passing game to help open up running opportunities. The game plan will hinge on who wins the quarterback job, and that remains up for grabs among senior Daniel Cobb, junior Jeff Klein and redshirt freshman Jason Campbell. Although Campbell is the most talented of the three and considered the Tigers' quarterback of the future, he may not be ready to take over the starting job this season. Cobb began his college career at Georgia and then transferred to Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College before coming to Auburn last season. Cobb clearly separated himself from the rest of the group in spring drills and was named the starter going into fall practice. Campbell missed time in the spring with a sprained knee. He's learning the offense better in his second season. Klein is a fiery competitor and the Tigers' most experienced quarterback, but he has a tendency to make mistakes. The Tigers will have to play to the strengths of whoever the quarterback is and alter the offense accordingly. Look for Cobb or Klein to start and Campbell to be gradually worked into the lineup.

**Offensive stars:** The Tigers lost their firepower with the departures of Johnson, Evans, QB Ben Leard and WR Ronney Daniels. The team's bright stars now are on the line. Senior LT Kendall Simmons has NFL talent and will have to take a leadership role. Senior C Mike Pucillo, who was forced into a starting role earlier in his career because of injuries, is now benefiting from that experience and will help anchor a solid line along with Simmons. Junior WR Marcel Willis is underrated and could become a big-play guy with his size, speed and ability to go up and get the ball.

**Offensive concerns:** Who will win the quarterback job? And will Cobb, Klein or Campbell be able to handle the offense? Leard may not have been very athletic, but he knew the offense inside and out. It's uncertain how the new quarterbacks will handle that responsibility, especially without having a dependable running game to fall back on. Johnson would have been the SEC's preseason offensive player of the year if he were back for his senior year, but now Auburn will have to pin its tailback hopes on either redshirt freshman Ronnie Brown or heralded true freshman Carnell Williams. Both are untested and won't be able to carry the load like Johnson did. Lack of experience at wide receiver also is a concern with Daniels leaving for the NFL and talented sophomore Deandre Green leaving the team in the spring for personal reasons. Green supposedly may be back for the fall, but if he's not the Tigers could be hurting without a complement to Willis. Junior wideout Tim Carter has a lot of speed and could become a star, but his hands aren't always reliable.

**Defensive philosophy:** Coordinator John Lovett is becoming more aggressive as he gets established, and he's got a lot of talented, athletic and fast players to turn loose in Auburn's 4-3 scheme. The Tigers should be able to get a lot of pressure on quarterbacks with their front seven, and they'll need to do that to take pressure off a secondary that is replacing two starters. The defense, which was able to stay off the field frequently last season thanks to the improved running game and ball-control offense, will have to be ready to help

## TSNumber

**32:30**

Auburn's average time of possession last season. The running game enabled the offense to control the ball and help keep the defense fresh during a surprise run to the SEC West title. This year, the Tigers' defense figures to be on the field a lot more because RB Rudi Johnson, FB Heath Evans and QB Ben Leard have departed.



carry the offense, at least early in the season.

#### **Defensive stars:**

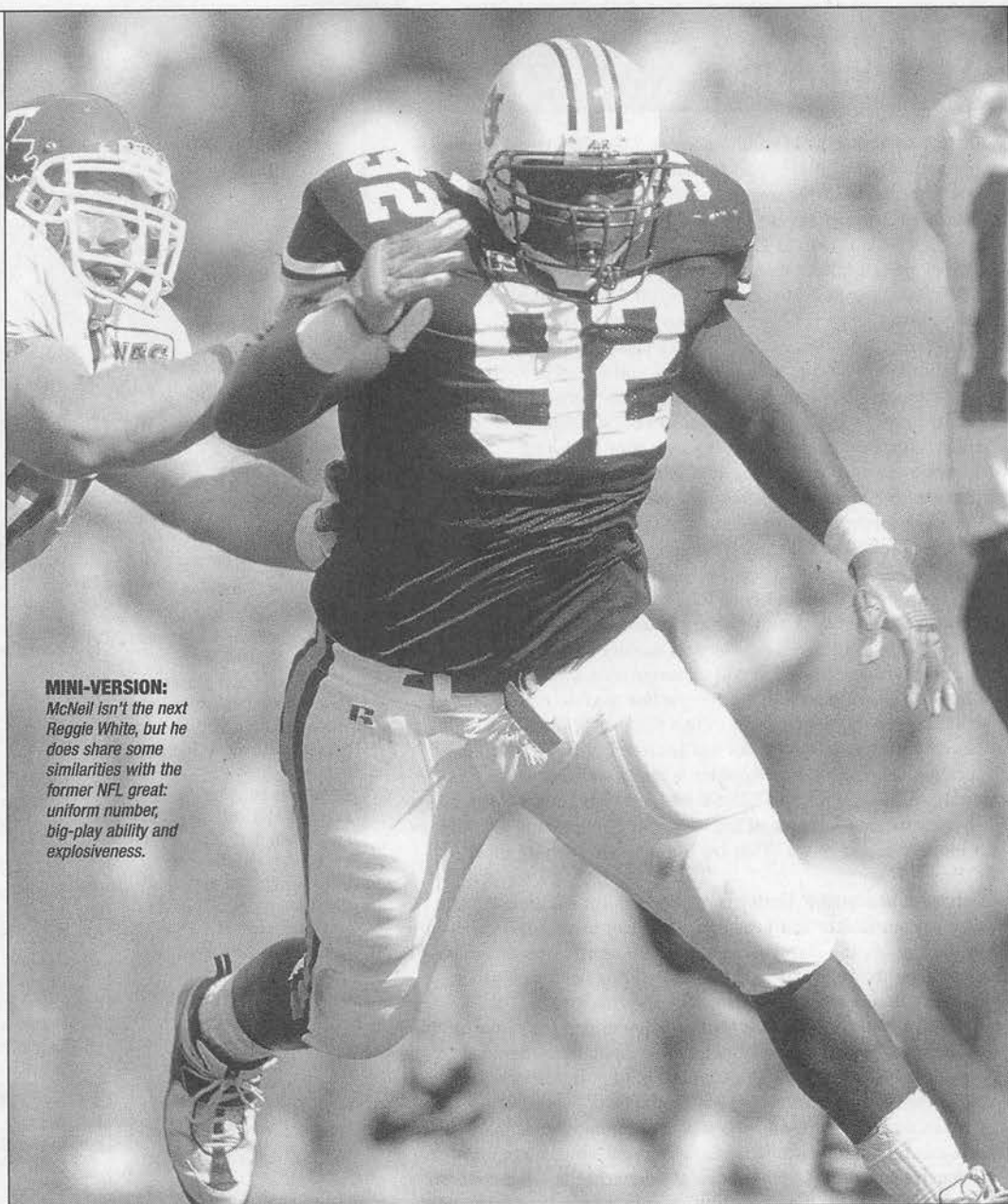
Sophomore DT DeMarco McNeil is a dominating presence inside who makes big plays against the run and pass. He can take on double-team blocks and still get to the quarterback or the ballcarrier, and the manner in which offensive schemes must account for him helps open big-play opportunities for other Tigers. Senior DE Javor Mills, a junior college transfer last year who made the adjustment to playing in the SEC, should be one of the conference's top pass rushers. Senior Tavarreus Pounds and sophomore Dontarrious Thomas are speedy, physical linebackers who should make a lot of plays because they'll be freed up by the line-men. The light seemed to come on for junior FS Stanford Simmons at the end of last season, and he'll be counted on to lead the secondary.

#### **Defensive concerns:**

Some holes must be filled in the secondary with the loss of two starters. Although the coaches are high on redshirt freshmen CB Junior Rosegreen and FS Donnay Young because of their height and speed, they're still untested and are sure to make mistakes. Auburn will miss the experience and savvy of CB Larry Casher, but Rosegreen and Young are much more physical and will eventually develop into solid corners.

**Special teams:** Junior Damon Duval, who two years ago upset coach Tommy Tuberville with his attitude and drew a suspension, has proved his worth as a combination kicker. He averaged 43.2 yards as a punter last season and hit 14 of 18 field-goal attempts and all 34 PATs. Although Duval showed he can handle both jobs, the coaches would prefer that redshirt freshman Eddie Yost win the kicking job. Carter's speed makes him dangerous on kick returns, and Williams also may return kicks if he isn't starting at tailback.

**Coaching staff:** Auburn had no coaching turnover after last season, and seven of the assistants worked with Tuberville at Mississippi. This is a close-knit staff with a lot of chemistry. Tuberville surrounds himself with guys he trusts, takes the CEO approach and delegates well. Mazzone, a respected teacher and play-caller, had opportunities in the offseason to leave the staff but decided to stay. The quarterbacks will lean on his knowledge and experience for a smooth transition. Tuberville is known as a



#### **MINI-VERSION:**

*McNeil isn't the next Reggie White, but he does share some similarities with the former NFL great: uniform number, big-play ability and explosiveness.*

gambler of sorts. But he's more of a grind-it-out coach who relies on the running game and a nasty defense. He opens up on offense and takes chances elsewhere out of necessity, and he gets the most out of his players through motivation and discipline. He learned much of what he does now as an assistant under Jimmy Johnson at Miami in the late 1980s, and their attitude and on-field demeanor is nearly identical. Tuberville expects two things from his players and assistants: hard work and an unwavering passion to be better than the other guy.

**Bottom line:** The Tigers should be tough on defense, and they'd better be because the offense figures to struggle to find its identity and new playmakers. If the defense plays as well as expected and the offense comes around, Auburn could have a winning season and play in a bowl game. For that to happen, though, the Tigers need Williams or Brown to make huge strides in the running game. Leard wasn't the prettiest quarterback, but he got away with a lot of mistakes because Auburn could always rely on Johnson when things got tight. Without a solid running game, the plan changes and more pressure is put on the quarterbacks to make plays in crucial situations. It also means that Tuberville will steer more toward his gambler style to gain any edge he can get.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



# 5 Arkansas

**Offensive philosophy:** With questions at quarterback and receiver but with a talented group of tailbacks and an experienced offensive line, Arkansas figures to rely heavily on its running game. Coach Houston Nutt also may sprinkle in a few option plays with sophomore WR Gerald Howard, who played quarterback in high school, getting under center at times.

**Offensive stars:** Redshirt sophomore TB Cedric Cobbs, who has a career average of 6.6 yards per carry, came back strong in the spring after playing just three games last season before undergoing shoulder surgery. He has the size and speed to be the SEC's best runner. He is part of a talented tailback trio, along with junior Fred Talley and sophomore Brandon Holmes. Talley rushed for a team-leading 768 yards after replacing Cobbs but went down with a torn ACL late in the season and missed spring practice. He hopes to be ready for the season and needs to prove the knee surgery didn't affect his breakaway speed. Holmes, who replaced Talley and played well, gives Arkansas quality depth at the position. Junior WR Sparky Hamilton has the talent to be the top deep threat, but he needs to show he can be the go-to guy.

**Offensive concerns:** Who will start at quarterback? Sophomore Zak Clark was the only scholarship quarterback to go through spring practice. He's talented but threw six interceptions and just one touchdown pass in 68 attempts last season, and he has to build some confidence early to win the job. Junior QB Robby Hampton started nine games last season, but he missed the spring after undergoing shoulder surgery and has yet to fully establish himself in the SEC. Sacha Lancaster moved from defensive lineman to fullback in the spring and must come through as a blocker and receiver. That transition is vital to Arkansas' offense clicking.

**Defensive philosophy:** Under coordinator John Thompson, who was co-coordinator last year and took over as the play-caller late in the season, the Razorbacks should be more unpredictable and aggressive than they were a year ago. They need to be to increase their sacks (13 last season) and takeaways (16).

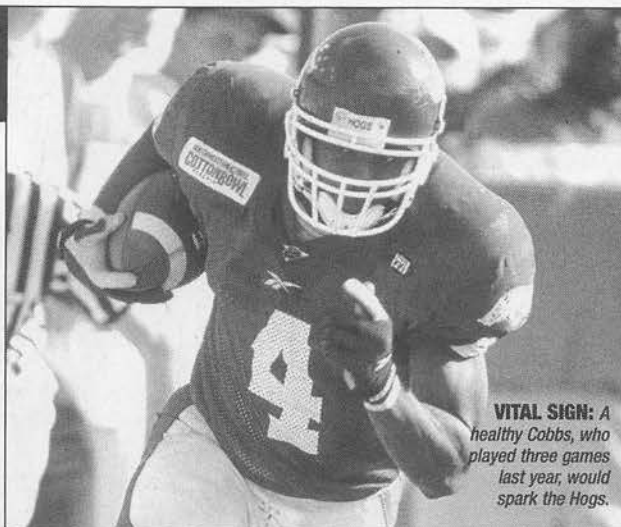
**Defensive stars:** Sophomore FS Ken Hamlin is a big hitter and an even bigger talker who sets the tone for the defense. Senior DE Carlos Hall has loads of potential, and the Razorbacks desperately need him to start showing it on the field. Sophomore CB Lawrence Richardson, who wasn't academically eligible last season, can be the top cover man as well as get some snaps on offense.

**Defensive concerns:** Inexperience at linebacker is a big concern. The Razorbacks will be counting on senior Jermaine Petty, who moved from defensive end in the spring, to come through along with sophomores Caleb Miller, Tony Bua and Shane Collins and junior college transfer Gavin Walls. Lack of size up front has been a problem and will be again if redshirt freshmen Jason Peters and Elliott Harris aren't ready to contribute.

**Special teams:** Junior P Richie Butler is a great weapon with his strong leg and ability to have punts die inside the 20. The Razorbacks made just six field goals last season and must find a consistent kicker. Sophomore Brennan O'Donohoe has ability but needs to show consistency. Richardson could be the breakaway kick returner the Razorbacks have been missing for several seasons.

**Coaching staff:** Arkansas upgraded its staff when Dave Wommack, who was Southern Mississippi's defensive coordinator the last two seasons, decided to rejoin Thompson at Arkansas and coach the defensive backs. Quarterbacks coach David Lee is back for his second tour of duty at Arkansas and is a proven developer of quarterbacks.

**Bottom line:** For Arkansas to go bowling for the fourth year in a row, it needs Cobbs to stay healthy, Talley to get healthy, a solid quarterback to emerge and the defense to make more big plays.



**VITAL SIGN:** A healthy Cobbs, who played three games last year, would spark the Hogs.

ROBERT SCALF / TSN

## National Rank 52

**Coach:** Houston Nutt (23-13, 3 years; 59-35 overall, 8 years)

**Offensive coordinator:**

Houston Nutt (4th season)

**Defensive coordinator:** John

Thompson (2nd season)

**Offensive scheme:** I-formation

**Defensive scheme:** Multiple

**Starters lost:** 10

**Lettermen lost:** 22

**Lettermen returning:** 49

**Site:** Fayetteville, Ark.

**Stadium:** Razorback (grass, 72,000)

**Last league title won:** 1989 (Southwest)

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1997

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 30

**2000 record:** 6-6 (lost to UNLV in Las Vegas Bowl); SEC West: 3-5/T5th.

**Website:** www.hogwired.com

## 2000 Results

SW Missouri State, W, 38-0

Boise State, W, 38-31

Alabama, W, 28-21

Georgia, L, 38-7

Louisiana-Monroe, W, 52-6

at South Carolina, L, 27-7

at Auburn, L, 21-19

Mississippi, L, 38-24

at Tennessee, L, 63-20

at Mississippi State, W, 17-10

LSU, W, 14-3

UNLV, L, 31-14

## Schedule

S1—UNLV\*

S8—Tennessee

S15—North Texas

S22—at Alabama

S29—at Georgia

O13—South Carolina\*

O27—Auburn

N3—at Mississippi

N10—Central Florida

N17—Mississippi State

N24—at LSU

\*at Little Rock, Ark.

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Sparky Hamilton	6-4	210	Jr.
	Sam Breeden	6-4	226	Jr.
T	<b>Shannon Money</b>	6-4	<b>309</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Bo Lacy	6-4	286	So.
G	<b>La'Zerius White</b>	6-4	<b>328</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Scott Davenport	6-2	307	So.
C	<b>Josh Meltton</b>	6-5	<b>288</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Dan Doughty	6-2	302	So.
G	<b>Kenny Sandlin</b>	6-3	<b>319</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jim Peters	6-3	290	So.
T	Mark Bokermann	6-5	308	So.
	Bo Lacy	6-4	286	So.
TE	Nathan Ball	6-4	281	Jr.
	<b>Marcellus Poydras</b>	6-5	<b>256</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
WR	Richard Smith	5-10	175	So.
	George Wilson	6-1	206	So.
QB	Zak Clark	6-2	195	So.
	<b>Robby Hampton</b>	6-2	<b>220</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
RB	Cedric Cobbs	6-1	228	So.
	Brandon Holmes	6-2	218	So.
FB	Sacha Lancaster	6-4	261	Sr.
	Brandon Holmes	6-2	218	So.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Carlos Hall</b>	6-4	<b>261</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Keith Turner	6-3	245	So.
T	Jermaine Brooks	6-3	295	Jr.
	Elliott Harris	6-4	266	Fr.*
T	<b>Curt Davis</b>	6-3	<b>282</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Derrick Anderson	6-0	272	So.
E	Raymond House	6-3	266	Jr.
	Jason Peters	6-5	311	Fr.*
OLB	Caleb Miller	6-3	213	So.
	Gavin Walls	6-2	217	Jr.
MLB	Shane Collins	6-2	215	So.
	Jermaine Petty	6-2	261	Sr.
OLB	<b>Tony Bua</b>	5-11	<b>212</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Jimmy Beasley	5-11	191	So.
CB	Lawrence Richardson	5-11	191	So.
	Kevin Baker	5-10	165	So.
SS	<b>Corey Harris</b>	5-10	<b>200</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	D'Andre Berry	5-9	180	Sr.
FS	<b>Ken Hamlin</b>	6-2	<b>193</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Shelton Parker	5-9	173	So.
CB	<b>Eddie Jackson</b>	6-0	<b>186</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Harold Harris	5-11	191	Sr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
P	<b>Brennan O'Donohoe</b>	6-0	<b>220</b>	<b>So.</b>
K	<b>Richie Butler</b>	6-1	<b>222</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 6 Mississippi

**Offensive philosophy:** Coach David Cutcliffe is big on trying to have a pass-run balance in the Rebels' I-formation attack. But with sophomore Eli Manning now at starting quarterback and TB Deuce McAllister having moved on the NFL, it figures Ole Miss will be a pass-oriented team.

**Offensive stars:** Manning has the name, arm and brains to be a star quarterback in the SEC. As a first-time starter, though, he needs a good supporting cast, and the Rebels have some quality, experienced players around him. Senior TB Joe Gunn, who rushed for 951 yards in 1999 but fell off to 382 last season, should be ready to be the man in the running game now that McAllister is gone. Senior FB Charles Stackhouse is the total package with his blocking, receiving and running skills. Senior LT Terrence Metcalf is one of the SEC's top linemen and will be protecting Manning's blind side. Sophomore WR Chris Collins should be the Rebels' top deep threat and seems to have a good chemistry going with Manning.

**Offensive concerns:** While Manning has the talent and bloodline for SEC greatness, he has never started a college game and will be under tremendous pressure to live up to high expectations as the son of Archie and brother of Peyton. Is this Manning ready to shine in that spotlight? Providing pass protection for Manning is vital, and Ole Miss has new starting guards in senior Matt Koon and junior German Bello. They need to show they're ready to step up. The starting kicking job still isn't settled between redshirt freshman Jon Nichols and sophomore walk-on Lee Rogers.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Rebels didn't show much of their new defensive package during the spring—about half of 1 percent—Cutcliffe says. But new defensive coordinator Don Lindsey, whose previous stops include Southern California, Arkansas, Georgia Tech, Alabama and Missouri, has a track record of going with a blitzing, gambling, high-reward, high-risk scheme. That's the kind of aggressiveness the Rebels will be looking for after they finished 11th in the SEC in scoring defense and 10th in total defense and allowed touchdowns on West Virginia's first five possessions in the Music City Bowl. Lindsey said he's not locked into anything and will tailor a scheme to fit the Rebels' personnel, but look for Ole Miss to use a 3-4 because it is small up front and has a talented group of linebackers.

**Defensive stars:** Junior LB Eddie Strong, who redshirted last season because of a foot injury, was full speed in the spring and should flourish with Lindsey calling the shots. Lindsey likes to feature a player he can move around and put in position to make big plays, and Strong should be that guy. The secondary is led by senior FS Syniker Taylor, who is a physical tackler and can cover. Senior DT Anthony Sims is the Rebels' only returning starter on the defensive line and must be an anchor up front.

**Defensive concerns:** The Rebels are small on the defensive line and could be overpowered against SEC opponents. Getting pressure on quarterbacks also could be a problem, and Ole Miss may be forced into too many blitzing situations that leaves its secondary vulnerable to big plays. Junior college transfer Germain Landrum is being counted to start at linebacker, but is he ready for the SEC?

**Special teams:** With Deuce no longer on the loose, Ole Miss will be looking for another breakaway return threat. Junior Robert Williams, who returned a kickoff for a touchdown against Arkansas last season, and the speedy Collins are the prime candidates. Redshirt freshman Cody Ridgeway is the projected punter.

**Coaching staff:** Lindsey, a veteran coordinator, was rescued from the XFL when Cutcliffe decided to bring him in. Lindsey may be able to provide a jolt with his enthusiasm and blitzing tendencies.

**Bottom line:** There are playmakers on both sides of the ball and no Florida or Tennessee on the schedule. Don't be surprised if Ole Miss has a winning season and plays in a minor bowl game for the fifth consecutive year.



**HUGE HELP** Moving Metcalf up front should ease the minds of any quarterback, but especially that of a young one.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

## National Rank 66

**Coach:** David Cutcliffe (16-9, 2 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** John Latina (2nd season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Don Lindsey (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** Pro set

**Defensive scheme:** 3-4

**Starters lost:** 14

**Lettermen lost:** 25

**Lettermen returning:** 12

**Site:** Oxford, Miss.

**Stadium:** Vaught-Hemingway (grass, 50,577)

**Last league title won:** 1963  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1996

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 19

**2000 record:** 7-5 (lost to West Virginia in Music City Bowl).

**SEC West:** 4-4/T3rd

**Website:**

www.olemisssports.com

## 2000 Results

Tulane, W, 49-20

Auburn, L, 35-27

at Vanderbilt, W, 12-7

Kentucky, W, 35-17

Arkansas State, W, 35-10

at Alabama, L, 45-7

UNLV, W, 43-40 (OT)

at Arkansas, W, 38-24

LSU, L, 20-9

Georgia, L, 32-14

Mississippi State, W, 45-30

West Virginia, L, 49-38

## Schedule

S1—Murray State

S8—at Auburn

S15—Vanderbilt

S29—at Kentucky

O6—at Arkansas State

O13—Alabama

O20—Middle Tennessee

O27—at LSU

N3—Arkansas

N17—Georgia

N24—at Mississippi State

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Omar Rayford	6-1	198	Sr.
	Trey Fryfogle	6-1	185	Fr.*
T	<b>Belton Johnson</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	James Campbell	6-5	293	Fr.*
G	German Bello	6-2	307	Jr.
	Doug Buckles	6-5	285	Fr.*
C	<b>Ben Claxton</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Justin Sawyer	6-3	288	Jr.
G	Matt Koon	6-4	297	Sr.
	Marcus Johnson	6-6	320	Fr.*
T	<b>Terrence Metcalf</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Cliff Woodruff	6-6	293	So.
TE	<b>Doug Zeigler</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Mitch Skmetta	6-4	250	Sr.
WR	Chris Collins	6-1	190	So.
	Bill Flowers	6-0	180	Fr.*
QB	Eli Manning	6-4	205	So.
	David Morris	6-1	180	Jr.
RB	Joe Gunn	5-10	200	Sr.
	Robert Williams	5-10	189	Jr.
FB	<b>Charles Stackhouse</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Toward Sanford	5-10	225	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Charlie Anderson	6-4	225	So.
	Brian Lester	6-2	226	Fr.*
T	<b>Anthony Sims</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Yahrek Johnson	6-2	263	Jr.
T	Kenny Jackson	6-3	315	Sr.
	Jesse Mitchell	6-3	267	So.
E	Josh Cooper	6-4	230	So.
	Justin Blake	6-2	263	Jr.
OLB	Eddie Strong	6-3	242	Jr.
	Justin Wade	6-3	230	So.
MLB	<b>Lanier Goethie</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	<b>Kevin Thomas</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
OLB	Germain Landrum	6-3	225	Jr.
	Ryan Hamilton	6-1	220	Jr.
CB	<b>Justin Coleman</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Chris Knight	5-10	165	Jr.
SS	<b>Syniker Taylor</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Marcus Woodson	6-0	195	So.
FS	Von Hutchins	5-11	180	So.
	Travis Blanchard	5-11	175	So.
CB	Desmon Johnson	5-11	210	Jr.
	Wes Scott	6-1	195	Jr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Lee Rogers	5-9	161	So.
P	Cody Ridgeway	6-1	185	Fr.*

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*



# Pacific-10

Despite coaching changes, the league is at a high point in overall strength

By **TOM DIENHART**

**T**he 2000 season was a tough one for Pacific-10 coaches. USC's Paul Hackett, Arizona's Dick Tomey and Arizona State's Bruce Snyder all are gone. The last time the Pac-10 welcomed three new coaches at once was 1992. That year, Bruce Snyder took over for Larry Marmie at Arizona State, Keith Gilbertson assumed command from Snyder at California and Bill Walsh stepped in for Dennis Green at Stanford.

With Tomey's 14-year run over in Tucson, the dean of Pac-10 coaches is Washington State's Mike Price, who is entering his 13th season in Pullman. Oregon's Mike Bellotti and Stanford's Tyrone Willingham (entering their seventh seasons) and UCLA's Bob Toledo (sixth) are the other vets.

Pete Carroll steps into the fray at USC. He most recently was coach of the New England Patriots (1997-99) and New York Jets (1994). He went 27-21 with the Patriots and 6-10 with the Jets, advancing to the playoffs twice in New England. Carroll hasn't coached in college since 1983, when he was an assistant at Pacific.

Dirk Koetter has taken over at Arizona State. He coached Boise State to crazy heights the past three seasons, compiling a 26-10 mark with two Humanitarian Bowl wins.

John Mackovic is the new boss at Arizona. He worked as an ESPN analyst the past three seasons after stepping aside at Texas. Mackovic also was the head coach of Illinois, the Kansas City Chiefs and Wake Forest.

Despite the turnover, the Pac-10 is at a high point in strength. Last year, the league had two teams in BCS bowls for the first time, as Washington went to the Rose Bowl and Oregon State went to the Fiesta Bowl. The postseason success also was impressive, with Oregon (Holiday Bowl) joining the Huskies and Beavers in the winner's circle. Look for the upswing to continue because the league is devoid of an easy out.

**Ascending:** Washington State. You can stop laughing now. Yes, the Cougars' fortunes have floundered like Ryan Leaf's pro career, as Wazzu has gone 3-8, 3-9 and 4-7 since Leaf left after the 1997 Rose Bowl season. But the depth chart is loaded with veteran players who have learned their lessons. The key will be line play on both sides of the ball. With Carroll taking over, USC also is

on the way up after going 5-7 in 2000 and 6-6 in 1999.

**Descending:** Arizona. Last year's 5-6 record might look good compared to what could happen this fall. With a new coach, the biggest question is at quarterback.

Washington will move back in the pack without Marques Tuiasosopo and with an offensive line that must be sorted out.

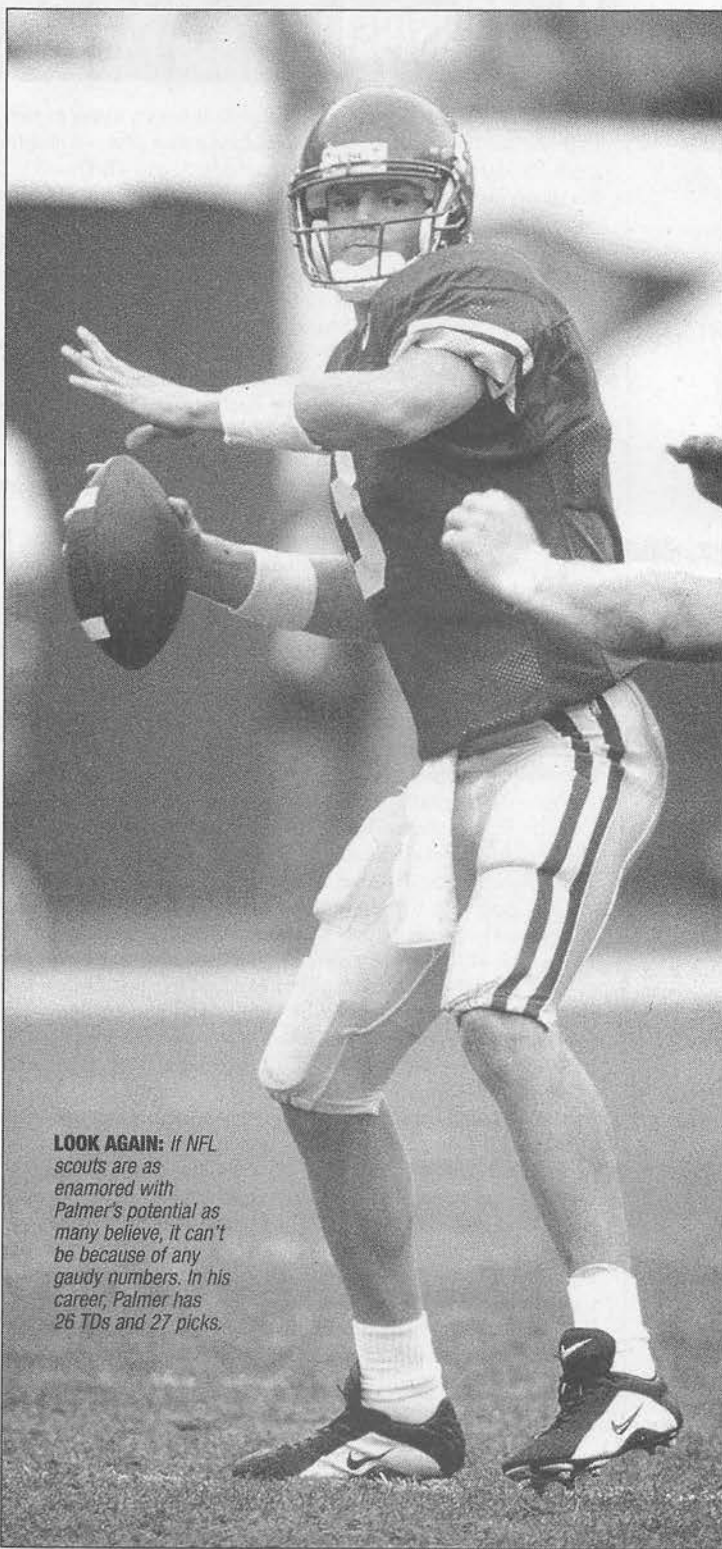
**Dream schedule:** Oregon State. How's this for openers? At Fresno State, at New Mexico State and home against Montana State. Not bad. Trips to USC and Oregon are the lone daunting road dates.

**Nightmare schedule:** Several teams have tough non-conference games. Washington plays host to Michigan and goes to Miami (Fla.). UCLA travels to Alabama and welcomes Ohio State. Cal entertains Illinois and BYU. But no one has more reason to sweat than USC. The Carroll era begins with a visit from San Jose State, which had a 24-12 lead on USC entering the fourth quarter before losing last year and which has beaten Stanford three years running. The Trojans also host Kansas State and travel to South Bend for their annual Notre Dame game. In league play, USC goes to Oregon and Washington. Oregon State and UCLA visit.

**Best matchup:** Oregon State at Oregon on December 1.

Whatever happened to USC-UCLA? The Civil War was the game last year, when the Beavers prevailed, 23-13, ending the Ducks' Rose Bowl hopes. This year, more could be at stake. A shot at the national title, perhaps?

**Ugliest matchup:** Montana State at Oregon State on September 15. This is the lone I-AA school playing a Pac-10 squad. And it could get messy. A few years ago, the Bobcats would have had a chance to win



**LOOK AGAIN:** If NFL scouts are as enamored with Palmer's potential as many believe, it can't be because of any gaudy numbers. In his career, Palmer has 26 TDs and 27 picks.

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

this game. Not anymore.

**Upset of the year:** Washington State over UCLA on November 3. No one likes to go to Pullman, especially in cold, rainy November. A quick score or two could take the fight out of the Bruins, who will just want to get back to warm Westwood after ricocheting around the hard, unforgiving turf at Martin Stadium.



**Bowl bound:** Oregon, Oregon State, USC, Washington and UCLA can punch postseason tickets. Arizona State and Stanford have outside chances. The Ducks have a chance to run the table, which could mean a trip to the Rose Bowl to play for the national title. If the Pac-10 champ isn't playing for all the marbles, it will be headed to the Fiesta Bowl.

**Biggest shoes to fill:** Though Tuiasosopo had considerable physical skills, it was intangibles such as heart, guts and leadership that made him special. Sophomore Cody Pickett and JC transfers Taylor Barton and Ryan Porter are fighting to replace him. Pickett has the biggest arm, Porter is the best athlete and Barton, who played for Rick Neuheisel at Colorado, has the most experience.

**Most overrated player:** Take your pick—USC QB Carson Palmer or Cal QB Kyle Boller. The hype outweighs the production for both. Palmer has 26 career touchdown tosses and 27 picks. Boller has 24 TD passes and 28 interceptions. Palmer is a senior, so this is his last chance to deliver. He has the talent around him to look good. Boller is just a junior who hopes the arrival of new offensive coordinator Al Borges and his West Coast attack help his development.

**Most underrated player:** Oregon QB Joey Harrington. You would think the Northwest was Mars with the lack of attention Harrington gets. First, he had to fight for the job with A.J. Feeley. Then, he had to play in the shadow of fellow Pac-10 QBs Tuiasosopo, Palmer, Boller and Arizona's O.J. Jenkins. Harrington, a senior, has gone 13-2 as a starter with one Pac-10 loss.

**Best coach:** Bellotti just edges out Neuheisel and Oregon State's Dennis Erickson. That Bellotti has sustained success for six seasons in Eugene is the deciding factor. His staff took some hits in the offseason, so we'll see how well he incorporates new faces. Still, this season could be his crowning glory.

**Best staff:** Oregon State. When the coaches heard that Erickson was linked to the USC job, they let it be known they didn't want to leave Corvallis for Los Angeles. Erickson stayed put. Veterans such as assistant head coach Gregg Smith, offensive coordinator Tim Lappano, defensive coordinator Craig Bray and running backs coach Dan Cozzetto are key players.

**Coach on the hot seat:** Cal's Tom Holmoe. Tick, tick, tick. Holmoe hasn't yielded a winning record since taking over for Steve Mariucci in 1997. To top that off, Holmoe has yet to beat Stanford, which has gone to the Rose Bowl during Holmoe's tenure. UCLA's Bob Toledo, entering his sixth season, also may feel some heat after going a combined 10-13 the past two years.

**Best bets:** Washington will play in the new Seattle Bowl, which will pit the Pac-10's fourth-place team against the fourth-place team from the Big East or ACC. The bowl replaces the Oahu Bowl, where attendance lagged. The Aloha Bowl moved to San Francisco. ... The Pac-10 won't produce a national champion. The league hasn't produced one since 1991, when Washington won a share of the title with Miami. The conference hasn't had a consensus No. 1 since USC in 1972. ... The Pac-10 also won't produce the Heisman winner. The conference hasn't claimed the prize since 1981, when USC's Marcus Allen won the award. Harrington might be the conference's best hope.

**Odds and ends:** Oregon State is playing just five home games because of a scheduling gaffe by North Texas. The OSU-North Texas game was part of a 1995 contract that had the teams playing at Denton, Texas, in '95 and at Corvallis in '97 and 2001. Last fall, it was discovered that North Texas had entered into a contract to play at Oklahoma with a more sizeable guarantee on the same date, September 8. As a resolution, North Texas agreed to pay Oregon State \$200,000, which is about what the Beavers would have made from the home game. ... The Seattle Seahawks will play again in Husky Stadium as their new digs are built. ... Losing assistant coaches is the price of success, as Oregon has found out. In the offseason, Bellotti hired Giants assistant Mike Gillhamer to coach the secondary after Bob Gregory left to become defensive coordinator at Boise State. Former Oakland Raiders assistant Robin Ross replaces special teams whiz Tom Osborne, who went to Arizona State. Dan Ferrigno was hired to replace receivers coach Chris Petersen, who joined Boise State. Jeffrey Hawkins is now director of football operations after Mike McHugh left to take a quality-control position with the Lions.

## ALL-LEAGUE

FIRST TEAM				Offense		
Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.		
WR	Bobby Wade, Arizona	5-11	187	Jr.		
WR	Kareem Kelly, USC	6-1	185	Jr.		
TE	Jerramy Stevens, Washington	6-7	260	Jr.		
T	Mark Wilson, California	6-6	295	So.		
T	Levi Jones, Arizona State	6-6	294	Sr.		
G	Eric Heitmann, Stanford	6-4	295	Sr.		
G	Scott Peters, Arizona State	6-3	290	Sr.		
C	Chris Gibson, Oregon State	6-3	276	Sr.		
QB	Joey Harrington, Oregon	6-4	220	Sr.		
RB	Ken Simonton, Oregon State	5-9	194	Sr.		
RB	DeShaun Foster, UCLA	6-1	215	Sr.		

Defense			
E	Terrell Suggs, Arizona State	6-5	240 So.
E	Kenyon Coleman, UCLA	6-6	276 Sr.
T	Larry Tripplett, Washington	6-1	300 Sr.
T	Keoni Fraser, Arizona	6-1	282 Sr.
LB	Lance Briggs, Arizona	6-1	230 Jr.
LB	Robert Thomas, UCLA	6-2	237 Sr.
LB	Curtis Holden, Washington State	6-2	232 Sr.
CB	Dennis Weathersby, Oregon State	6-1	203 Jr.
CB	Rashad Bauman, Oregon	5-8	180 Sr.
S	Marques Anderson, UCLA	6-0	201 Sr.
S	Tank Williams, Stanford	6-3	215 Sr.

Specialists			
K	John Anderson, Washington	6-2	185 Jr.
P	Nate Fikse, UCLA	5-9	180 Jr.
KR	Bobby Wade, Arizona	5-11	187 Jr.

Players of the year			
Offense: Ken Simonton, RB, Oregon State			
Defense: Lance Briggs, LB, Arizona			

SECOND TEAM				Offense		
Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.		
WR	Keenan Howry, Oregon	5-10	167	Jr.		
WR	Brian Poli-Dixon, UCLA	6-5	216	Sr.		
TE	Justin Peelle, Oregon	6-5	246	Sr.		
T	Mike Saffer, UCLA	6-5	305	Jr.		
T	Kwame Harris, Stanford	6-7	320	So.		
G	Jim Adams, Oregon	6-4	300	Sr.		
G	Keith DiDomenico, Oregon State	6-5	320	Sr.		
C	Kyle Benn, Washington	6-3	300	Sr.		
QB	Jonathan Smith, Oregon State	5-11	198	Sr.		
RB	Maurice Morris, Oregon	6-0	205	Sr.		
RB	Sultan McCullough, USC	6-0	185	Jr.		

Defense			
E	Lonnie Ford, USC	6-3	250 Sr.
E	Marcus Roberson, Washington	6-4	285 Sr.
T	Eric Manning, Oregon State	6-1	282 Jr.
T	Zack Freiter, Oregon	6-3	280 Sr.
LB	Raonall Smith, Washington State	6-2	254 Sr.
LB	Solomon Bates, Arizona State	6-2	253 Jr.
LB	James Allen, Oregon State	6-3	227 Sr.
CB	Ricky Manning, UCLA	5-9	180 Jr.
CB	Michael Jolivette, Arizona	5-9	175 So.
S	Troy Polamalu, USC	5-10	210 Jr.
S	Billy Newman, Washington State	5-10	204 Sr.

Specialists			
K	Ryan Cesca, Oregon State	5-8	167 Jr.
P	Nick Murphy, Arizona State	6-0	188 Sr.
KR	Collin Henderson, Washington St.	6-1	191 Jr.

Newcomers of the year			
Offense: Taylor Barton, QB, Washington			
Defense: D.J. Coote, CB, Oregon State			

## UNIT RANKINGS

	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				Special Teams Coaching	
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall		
ARIZONA	10	4	10	9	7	5	3	5	5	8
ARIZONA STATE	9	2	2	4	3	8	10	8	2	9
CALIFORNIA	6	10	3	8	10	9	8	9	9	10
OREGON	1	3	6	1	6	7	4	7	7	1
OREGON STATE	2	7	5	5	4	2	2	1	3	2
STANFORD	7	8	1	6	8	10	9	10	10	6
UCLA	3	5	4	2	1	3	6	3	1	5
USC	4	1	7	3	2	6	1	2	6	7
WASHINGTON	5	6	8	7	5	4	5	4	4	3
WASHINGTON ST.	8	9	9	10	9	1	7	6	8	4



## PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

### Offense

#### Ken Simonton, RB, Oregon State

It's not so much the 20 games he has rushed for 1,000 yards, nor the 4,073 career rushing yards, nor even the 312 points he has scored that should matter, Ken Simonton claims.

"It's that each year the numbers have turned into letters," Simonton says. "All those W's."

It was the letter so long absent from the OSU alphabet, as the Beavers went 28 years without recording a winning mark, but it's the numbers produced by Simonton that resulted in consecutive bowl teams to end that span of futility.

He's the first player in Pac-10 history to record 1,000-yard rushing seasons as a freshman, sophomore and junior, increasing his yardage each year from 1,028 to 1,486 to 1,559 last season, including the team's bowl win over Notre Dame.

"It's just a yardstick, but if you don't have 1,000 yards as a running back, you have a hard time talking about yourself with the other big-time running backs," says Simonton, who had the eighth-most

rushing yards in the nation last year.

The 5-8, 195-pound Simonton can be talked about with the best runners ever in the Pac-10. He enters the season ranked fifth in career rushing and likely will be third one game into the season. Only the conference record of 6,245 by USC's Charles White might be beyond his stride.

"I know I'll end up around some great names," Simonton says.

"More than anything, it's the company that puts you in. They can say I wasn't as good as those guys or whatever, but my name will be right up there next to them."

Simonton's name could end up at the top of the league scoring list, currently headed by kicker John Lee of UCLA at 390 points. That's 13 touchdowns for Simonton, who had 20 last season.

"As much as I touch the ball, I should get into the end zone," Simonton says. "It's just desire. I'm sure there is some talent involved, but it's that hunger, who wants it?" —Bob Clark

### Defense

#### Lance Briggs, LB, Arizona

You could explain away Lance Briggs' success for Arizona this way: He's an inside linebacker in a defense designed to allow linebackers to get to the ball more freely.

But that would be overlooking Briggs' physical talents and instinct to make plays, qualities that Arizona defensive coordinator Larry Mac Duff noticed quickly upon returning to the Wildcats this spring from the NFL.

"He's very good in open-field situations, he's very good at tracking people down, and he can make plays sideline to sideline," Mac Duff says. "I don't see anything physically that would limit him from being an outstanding player."

Mac Duff says Briggs is ideal to head up the Wildcats' double-eagle flex defense, which is essentially a gap-cancellation scheme that makes it difficult for offenses to block linebackers. Mac Duff should know, since he was one of the architects of the Wildcats' formidable "Desert Swarm" defenses of the early 1990s.

Briggs took over the top inside linebacker role for Marcus Bell last season under former coach Dick Tomey and left little doubt that he could handle it. He finished last season with 113 tackles.

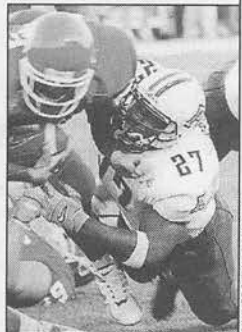
He then began impressing the new staff headed by John Mackovic, who hired Mac Duff to keep the old defense in place. Mackovic said Briggs is savvy and has a good work ethic about him, in addition to the physical skills.

Mackovic also noticed one other thing: That, for somebody who brought down 113 opponents last season, Briggs is a pretty good guy.

"He has a nice smile, he's friendly and he gets on with people nicely," Mackovic says. "But when it's time to play, he plays hard. He really hits them." —Bruce Pascoe



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN



UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

## 2000 INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### RUSHING returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Ken Simonton, Oregon State, Jr.	11	266	1,474	5.5	18	134.0
2. Sultan McCullough, USC, So.	12	227	1,163	5.1	6	96.9
3. Maurice Morris, Oregon, Jr.	11	260	1,106	4.3	8	100.6
4. DeShaun Foster, UCLA, Jr.	10	243	930	3.8	11	93.0
5. Joe Igber, California, So.	11	195	901	4.6	5	81.9
6. David Minnich, Washington State, Jr.	11	165	754	4.6	4	68.6
7. Rich Alexis, Washington, Fr.	11	118	738	6.3	9	67.1
8. Kerry Carter, Stanford, So.	11	179	729	4.1	6	66.3
9. Clarence Farmer, Arizona, Fr.	9	138	666	4.8	5	74.0
10. Patrick McCall, Oregon State, Jr.	11	119	633	5.3	7	57.6

### PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Rating
1. Carson Palmer, USC, So.	12	415	228	.549	18	2,914	7.0	16	118.0
2. Joey Harrington, Oregon, Jr.	11	375	195	.520	13	2,694	7.2	20	123.0
3. Jonathan Smith, Oregon State, Jr.	11	314	154	.490	7	2,468	7.9	17	128.5
4. Marques Tuiasosopo, Wash., Sr.	11	323	170	.526	11	2,146	6.6	14	115.9
5. Kyle Boller, California, So.	11	349	163	.467	13	2,121	6.1	15	104.5
6. Jason Gesser, Wash. St., So.	9	246	128	.520	10	1,967	8.0	16	132.5
7. Jeff Krohn, Arizona State, Fr.	9	244	119	.488	5	1,677	6.8	12	118.6
8. Ortege Jenkins, Arizona, Sr.	11	261	123	.471	12	1,647	6.3	9	102.3
9. Griffin Goodman, Arizona St., Sr.	10	110	48	.436	4	874	8.0	7	124.1
10. Matt Kegel, Washington St., Fr.	6	91	40	.440	1	535	5.9	1	94.8

### RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Freddie Mitchell, UCLA, Jr.	11	68	1,314	8	6.2	19.3
2. Milton Wynn, Washington State, Jr.	11	52	964	5	4.7	18.5
3. DeRonnie Pitts, Stanford, Sr.	11	77	882	8	7.0	11.5
4. Marshaun Tucker, Oregon, Sr.	11	50	871	6	4.6	17.4
5. Kareem Kelly, Southern California, So.	11	55	796	4	5.0	14.5
6. Keenan Howry, Oregon, So.	11	47	721	5	4.3	15.3
7. Chad Johnson, Oregon State, Sr.	11	33	713	6	3.0	21.6
8. Brian Poll-Dixon, UCLA, Jr.	10	46	700	5	4.6	15.2
9. Todd Elstrom, Washington, Jr.	11	47	683	3	4.3	14.5
10. Richard Williams, Arizona State, Sr.	10	38	666	7	3.8	17.5

## TEAM STATISTICS

### OFFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Washington (16)	211.7	1. Arizona State (20)	266.8	1. Southern California (28)	415.9
2. Oregon State (28)	186.1	2. UCLA (23)	264.0	2. Oregon State (32)	411.5
3. Arizona (50)	154.1	3. Southern California (24)	262.3	3. Oregon (34)	408.9
4. Southern California (51)	153.6	4. Oregon (25)	257.7	4. Washington (35)	407.9
5. Oregon (52)	151.2	5. Washington State (31)	241.5	5. Arizona State (50)	381.0
6. Stanford (65)	138.9	6. Stanford (34)	236.8	6. Stanford (54)	375.7
7. California (80)	123.9	7. Oregon State (44)	225.4	7. UCLA (63)	362.7
8. Washington State (84)	121.3	8. Washington (74)	196.2	8. Washington State (63)	362.7
9. Arizona State (87)	114.2	9. California (76)	193.5	9. California (93)	317.5
10. UCLA (100)	98.7	10. Arizona (102)	154.2	10. Arizona (101)	308.3

### DEFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Arizona (8)	88.5	1. Oregon (45)	207.1	1. Oregon State (20)	314.4
2. Oregon State (10)	93.1	2. Washington (47)	207.9	2. Arizona (21)	317.5
3. California (24)	110.8	3. Southern California (62)	217.3	3. Oregon (32)	331.1
4. Oregon (31)	124.0	4. Stanford (66)	219.1	4. Southern California (39)	343.0
5. Southern California (33)	125.8	5. Oregon State (71)	221.3	5. Washington (44)	349.5
6. Washington (50)	141.5	6. UCLA (79)	225.7	6. California (57)	365.4
7. Stanford (55)	146.7	7. Arizona (85)	229.0	7. Stanford (58)	365.8
8. Arizona State (74)	167.3	8. Arizona State (90)	234.1	8. Arizona State (82)	401.4
9. Washington State (77)	174.3	9. Washington State (95)	238.4	9. UCLA (92)	411.7
10. UCLA (88)	186.0	10. California (108)	254.6	10. Washington State (94)	412.6

Statistics do not include bowl games



# 1 Oregon

**National Rank**  
**5**

**Coach:** Mike Bellotti (49-22, 7th season; 72-47-2 overall, 12th season)

**Offensive coordinator:** Jeff Tedford (4th season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Nick Aliotti (3rd season)

**Offensive scheme:** Pro set

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 12

**Lettermen lost:** 23

**Lettermen returning:** 31

**Site:** Eugene, Ore.

**Stadium:** Autzen (artificial turf, 41,698)

**Last league title won:** 2000 (tie)

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1996

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 27

**2000 record:** 10-2 (beat Texas in Holiday Bowl); Pac-10:

7-1/T1st

**Website:** www.goducks.com

## 2000 Results

Nevada, W, 36-7

at Wisconsin, L, 27-23

Idaho, W, 42-13

UCLA, W, 29-10

Washington, W, 23-16

at USC, W, 28-17

Arizona, W, 14-10

at Arizona State, W, 56-55 (OT)

at Washington St., W, 27-24 (OT)

California, W, 25-17

at Oregon State, L, 23-13

Texas, W, 35-30

## Schedule

S1—Wisconsin

S8—Utah

S22—USC

S29—at Utah State

O6—at Arizona

O13—at California

O20—Stanford

O27—at Washington State

N3—Arizona State

N10—at UCLA

D1—Oregon State

## Game of the year

### Dec. 1—Oregon State

The Rose Bowl berth was decided last year when the Ducks met the Beavers in the Civil War. With that in mind, ABC paid each school \$600,000 to move the game back two weeks for a national telecast to end the season this year. The way the schedule sets up for Oregon, this could be for a spot in the Rose Bowl again.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The offense has a chance to be one of the most explosive in the nation. The key will be for the defense to play physical up front.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★★★

**Receivers:** ★★★

**Offensive line:** ★★

**Defensive line:** ★★

**Linebackers:** ★★

**Secondary:** ★★★★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jason Willis	6-1	190	Jr.
	Samie Parker	5-10	165	So.
T	<b>Jim Adams</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Adam Snyder	6-4	310	Fr.*
G	Josh Jones	6-2	285	Jr.
	Ryan Schmid	6-4	280	Sr.
C	<b>Ryan Schmid</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Dan Weaver	6-4	279	So.
G	<b>Joey Forster</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Mike Belisle	6-5	315	Jr.
T	Corey Chambers	6-4	325	Jr.
	Michael Delagrone	6-4	325	Fr.*
TE	<b>Justin Peelle</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	George Wighster	6-4	235	So.
WR	<b>Keenan Howry</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Cy Aleman	6-3	199	Jr.
QB	<b>Joey Harrington</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jason Fife	6-4	212	So.
RB	<b>Maurice Morris</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Onterio Smith	5-11	200	So.
FB	<b>Josh Line</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Adam Kennybrew	6-0	231	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Seth McEwen</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Ed Wangler	6-4	245	Jr.
T	Zack Freiter	6-3	280	Sr.
	Nick Steitz	6-4	276	Fr.*
T	Igor Olshansky	6-6	270	Fr.*
	Junior Siavii	6-5	335	Jr.
E	Quinn Dorsey	6-4	240	Jr.
	Kevin Mack	6-2	235	Fr.*
OLB	Kevin Mitchell	5-10	213	So.
	Ryan Loftin	6-3	225	Fr.*
MLB	Garret Graham	6-4	240	Jr.
	David Martin	5-11	199	Jr.
OLB	Wesley Mallard	6-2	208	Sr.
	John Harris	6-0	220	Jr.
CB	<b>Rashad Bauman</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Charles Favroth	5-11	175	Sr.*
SS	Gary McGraw	5-9	180	Sr.
	Stephen Clayton	5-11	180	Fr.*
FS	<b>Rasuli Webster</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Keith Lewis	6-1	185	So.
CB	<b>Steve Smith</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	A.K. Keyes	5-9	168	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Jared Siegel	5-10	180	Fr.
P	Jose Arroyo	5-11	185	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold*

*\* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** The Ducks preach balance and diversity and generally live up to their own billing. Any offensive series might include an empty backfield with four wide receivers, followed a couple plays later by an option keeper for the quarterback. And as much as this has the reputation of being an offense for quarterbacks, Oregon has had a 1,000-yard rusher in three of the past four seasons. With eight offensive starters back and depth at all the skill positions, nothing figures to change much, though great depth at tailback could mean more split-back sets than the traditional pro formation.

**Offensive stars:** Who do the Ducks feature? RB Maurice Morris was second in the league in rushing average in 2000, and QB Joey Harrington threw for more touchdowns than any Pac-10 passer. The yards shouldn't decrease for either one, considering Morris will run behind a line that returns all but one starter, and Harrington's targets include a pair of returning two-year starters in WR Keenan Howry and TE Justin Peelle. The last two recruiting classes have been deep and talented in receivers who should be ready to contribute. The Ducks also add Tennessee transfer Onterio Smith to share the running duties with Morris.

**Offensive concerns:** Behind Harrington, there is only inexperienced sophomore Jason Fife and a trio of freshmen. The Ducks are also thin at tackle, though standout G Jim Adams again could move to the outside if none of the young linemen is ready or something happens to Corey Chambers, the one experienced tackle. The Ducks like to use an extra tight end or the fullback as an additional blocker, but depth needs to be found at both spots or the offense will require some alteration.

**Defensive philosophy:** First and foremost, the Ducks believe in stopping the run, seemingly a contradiction for a team that led the Pac-10 in pass defense last season, and yet for them it follows perfectly. The theory is to make a team one-dimensional by taking away the run, and the passing game can be handled if there's not the threat of a balanced offense. It will be a challenge this year, with three new starters on the line, three new starting linebackers, and a new rover, who is more a fourth linebacker than a second safety in Oregon's methodology. What bodes well is that the Ducks figure to be even faster than a year ago from front to back, which allows them to cover for some of the gambles they take.

**Defensive stars:** Rashad Bauman came back from the knee surgery that knocked him out of the 1999 season to earn all-league honors last season as a cornerback. Then he saved the Holiday Bowl victory over Texas with big plays in the fourth quarter. He completed the season by deciding he'd return for his senior year, which means the Ducks are set at their two most important positions on defense with Bauman and fellow senior Steve Smith at the corners.

**Defensive concerns:** Of the likely regulars in the front seven, only E Seth McEwen has even half of a season's experience as a starter. It's likely that along with redshirt freshman Igor Olshansky, the Ducks need one or both of their junior college transfers to step right into a prominent role in the line, and a severe test will come immediately in the opener against Wisconsin. There's plenty of speed among the linebackers, but is there a run-stopper in the mold of the graduated Matt Smith? Also, as important as those cornerbacks are to the UO defense, they both need to stay healthy, as they did last season, or one of the untried backups must be ready to come through this season.

**Special teams:** In the past few seasons, the Ducks have been the league's best in this area, leading the Pac-10 last fall in such diverse categories as kickoff coverage and kickoff returns, plus net punting. But not only are there new kickers and a different punter, but also special teams coordinator Tom Osborne was lured away by Arizona State with a significant pay raise and a promotion to assistant head coach. Certainly all the speed the Ducks have recruited in recent years should bode well for candidates on the special teams, but how does it all fit together under new coordinator Robin Ross? And will either a freshman or one of the walk-on transfers deliver as a kicker for a team that had more field goal attempts than any team in the Pac-10 the past two seasons? Add in new P Jose Arroyo and it will be an extreme challenge for the Ducks to live up to their reputation in special teams.

**Coaching staff:** Mike Bellotti resisted the overtures from USC, Arizona State and Ohio State after Oregon's first 10-win season, but he lost three of his assistants to promotions at other schools, including Osborne and wide receivers coach Chris Petersen, who had been on Bellotti's staff since he became head coach in 1995. Both were not only well-regarded





**MIGHTY MO:** Morris, who finished second in the Pac-10 in rushing, is one of several talented skill players who are back for the Ducks.

as on-field coaches but also had been two of Oregon's top recruiters during their tenure. The replacements bring interesting resumes to the Ducks, with both Ross (who also will have responsibility for tight ends) and secondary coach Mike Gillhamer coming back from the NFL to join the Ducks, and veteran Pac-10 assistant Dan Ferrigno (at USC most recently) taking over the receivers. What the Ducks do have this year is as much stability in their coordinators than any team in the Pac-10, with Jeff Tedford entering his fourth year with the offense and Nick Aliotti in his third season of running the defense.

**Bottom line:** Though the Ducks have the best overall cumulative record in the Pac-10 during Bellotti's six seasons, their last Rose Bowl came

## TSNumber

# 9

The interceptions QB Joey Harrington threw in Oregon's two losses last year. He threw 13 overall. Take

away a few of those picks, and the Ducks might have gone unbeaten. Harrington is poised for a big year in what should be one of the nation's most explosive offenses. In addition, Oregon will feature WR Keenan Howry, TE Justin Peelle and RB Maurice Morris.

the year before he took over, in 1994. In the last three years, Oregon has been third, tied for second and tied for the title, which meant trips to the Aloha Bowl, the Sun Bowl and the Holiday Bowl. This season, the Ducks could win the Pac-10 title and still not end up in the Rose Bowl since it hosts the national championship game. But while computers will have some say in whether Oregon ends up in Pasadena, the talent says the Ducks should be the leading contender for the league title, if the defense comes through as it did last year when it also returned only three starters. Barring injuries at cornerback, the defense should be solid again, and that means the Ducks could finish the year in a BCS bowl, if not the Rose then the Fiesta, which draws the Pac-10 champion if it isn't a top-two team. —B.C.



# 2 Oregon State

**National Rank**  
**11**

**Coach:** Dennis Erickson (18-6, 3rd season; 131-46-1 overall, 15 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Tim Lappano (3rd season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Craig Bray (2nd season)

**Offensive scheme:** One-back spread

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 14

**Lettermen lost:** 23

**Lettermen returning:** 42

**Site:** Corvallis, Ore.

**Stadium:** Reser (artificial turf, 35,362).

**Last league title won:** 2000 (tie)

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1998

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 49

**2000 record:** 11-1 (beat Notre Dame in Fiesta Bowl); Pac-10: 7-1/T1st

**Website:** www.osubeavers.com

## 2000 Results

Eastern Michigan, W, 21-19

at New Mexico, W, 28-20

San Diego State, W, 35-3

USC, W, 31-21

at Washington, L, 33-30

Stanford, W, 38-6

at UCLA, W, 44-38

Washington State, W, 38-9

at California, W, 38-32

at Arizona, W, 33-9

Oregon, W, 23-13

Notre Dame, W, 41-9

## Schedule

S1—at Fresno State

S8—North Texas

S15—Montana State

S29—UCLA

O6—at Washington State

O13—Arizona

O20—at Arizona State

O27—California

N3—at USC

**N10—Washington**

D1—at Oregon

## Game of the year

**Nov. 10—Washington**

A lousy missed field-goal attempt. That's all that stood between OSU and an unbeaten 2000. The Beavers get a chance at redemption against Washington in Corvallis, where the atmosphere will be electric. OSU hasn't beaten the Huskies since '85, but the way things play out for Dennis Erickson, who says another string can't be broken?

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

Finding new ends is the only thing that might hold up the defense. A talented offensive backfield will need receivers to emerge.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★★★

**Receivers:** ★

**Offensive line:** ★★

**Defensive line:** ★★

**Linebackers:** ★★

**Secondary:** ★★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Shawn Kintner	6-3	203	Jr.
	Aaron Hill	6-2	197	So.
WR	Ron Monteilh	5-11	192	Fr.*
	Mike Payton	5-9	175	Sr.
T	Lee Davis	6-3	317	Jr.
	Kanan Sanchez	6-4	305	Fr.*
G	Mike Kuykendall	6-6	320	Jr.
	Tyler McLaughry	6-4	280	Sr.
C	<b>Chris Gibson</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Dustin Janz	6-3	294	Sr.
G	<b>Keith DiDomenico</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Paul Davidian	6-4	283	Sr.
T	<b>Vincent Sandoval</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Doug Nienhuis	6-5	274	Fr.*
TE	Tim Euhus	6-5	240	So.
	Mark Walsh	6-3	259	Sr.
WR	Seth Trimmer	6-5	203	Jr.
	James Newson	6-1	196	So.
QB	<b>Jonathan Smith</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Shayne House	6-5	209	So.
RB	<b>Ken Simonton</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Patrick McCall	5-11	196	Sr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Kyle Rosselle	6-5	250	Sr.
	Mike Havens	6-5	258	Fr.*
T	<b>Eric Manning</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Dwan Edwards	6-3	269	So.
T	Brian Tulikihifo	6-4	271	Sr.
	Paul Sato	6-1	272	Fr.*
E	Dan Rothwell	6-7	221	So.
	Alvin Steen	6-2	260	Jr.
OLB	Erik Tuma	6-0	219	Jr.
	Noah Happe	6-6	216	So.
MLB	<b>Richard Seigler</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Jonathan Pollard	6-1	225	Fr.*
OLB	<b>James Allen</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Nick Barnett	6-2	196	Jr.
CB	Shamon Jamerson	5-11	178	So.
	Johan Thomas	5-8	167	Fr.*
SS	Jake Cookus	5-10	192	Sr.
	Mitch Meeuwesen	6-2	192	Fr.*
FS	<b>Calvin Carlyle</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Eric Mobley	5-10	192	Sr.
CB	<b>Dennis Weathersby</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Terrell Roberts	5-10	199	Jr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Ryan Cesca</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
P	Carl Tobey	6-1	226	So.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** The Beavers spread the field with three wide receivers and put the defense in as many one-on-one situations as possible, then take advantage of them with speedsters who can break big plays. It's simple, but oh, so effective when the receivers are as elusive as the trio Oregon State had last season. It also helps when the one back is as tough to tackle as Ken Simonton. The question this season will be whether the receivers are there to offer that variety. It may be that Simonton—and talented backup Patrick McCall—take on more of the load early to set up the passing game, certainly a task they can handle.

**Offensive stars:** Simonton, the tailback the past three seasons, would be a threat to rush for 2,000 yards except he's kept fresh in a rotation with McCall, who is almost as gifted. McCall, a transfer from Michigan, finished 10th in the Pac-10 in rushing yards last season as a reserve. Also in his fourth season as a starter, QB Jonathan Smith has the system down almost perfectly, and the Beavers have it designed so his lack of size (5-11, 198) isn't a deterrent, which it sometimes was his first fall as a starter. The offense wouldn't work so well without a solid line, and that doesn't figure to fall off much despite the loss of three starters. All-league C Chris Gibson returns to anchor the front five, and former all-leaguer Keith DiDomenico is back for his final season at guard after taking 2000 off for personal reasons.

**Offensive concerns:** Who catches the football? The Beavers lost not only their three starting wide receivers but their top two tight ends. Some combination of the backups who played sparingly last season, a pair of talented redshirt freshmen and the transfers must deliver. Otherwise, opponents can gang up their defenses on the running game. After the success the past two seasons of junior college transfers, the key here could be newcomer Andre Cyrus, who certainly has the talent. The only other worry for the Beavers is a backup to Smith should something happen to the starting quarterback. Holding him out in the spring as he recovered from a broken hand gave the reserves more than the usual opportunities, and much-heralded recruit Derek Anderson arrives in the fall. The worst-case scenario for OSU would be playing Anderson immediately out of necessity.

**Defensive philosophy:** Much as they do on offense, the Beavers rely on speed and aggressiveness to force the opponent into tough matchups. That approach was showcased in the Fiesta Bowl rout of plodding Notre Dame. The Irish couldn't get receivers open against the OSU secondary, couldn't run because the blockers couldn't get to the linebackers and had no hope of slowing the Beavers' pass rushing from the outside. Even with some new personnel, OSU appears to have that same kind of speed.

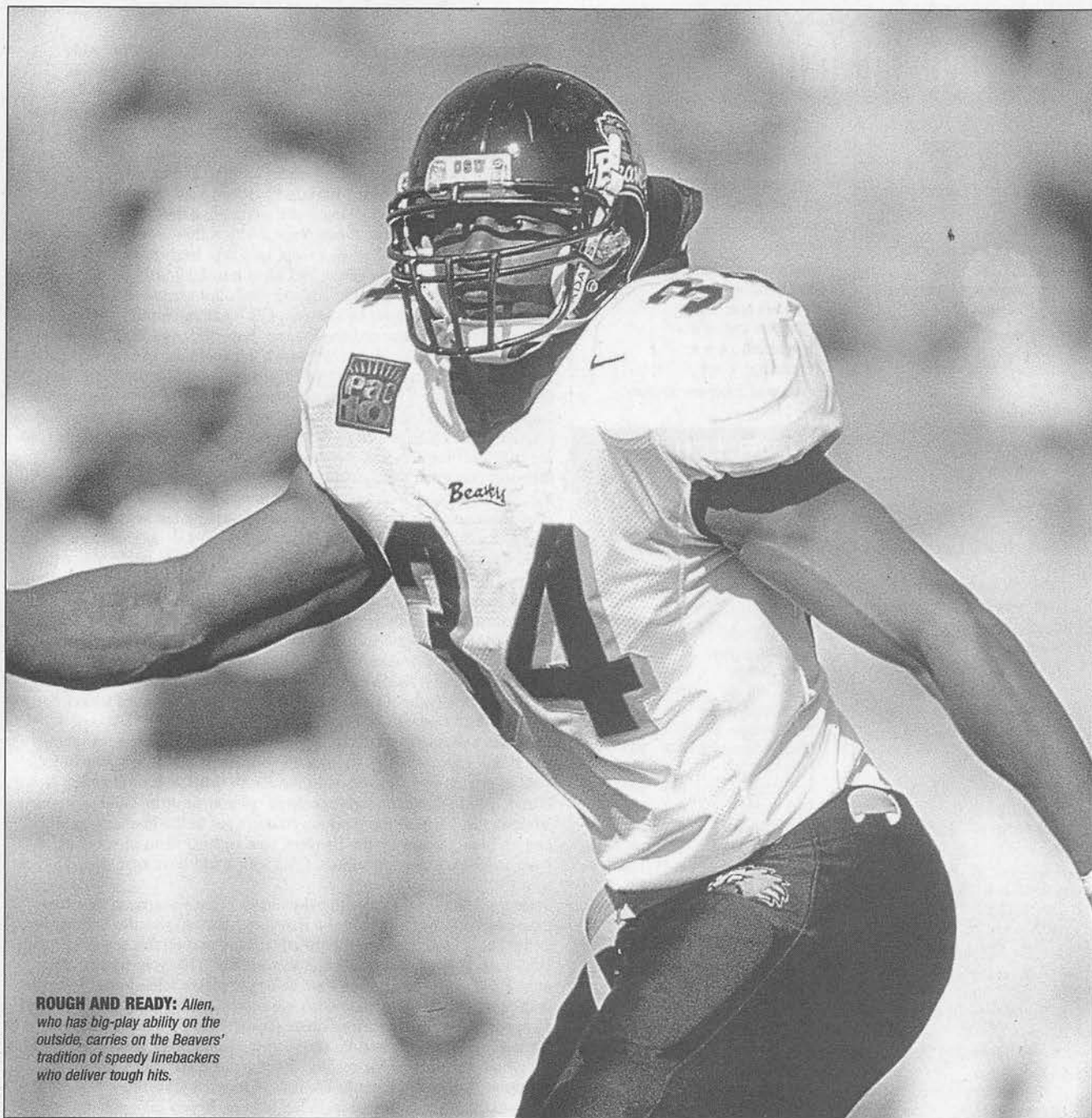
**Defensive stars:** Dennis Weathersby enters his junior season as a two-time all-league selection at cornerback and last fall was the only player in the Pac-10 to be honored both athletically and on the academic team. Who even throws in his direction this season? The front four returns only T Eric Manning, but he's an all-league player who holds down the middle so well that the ends don't often face double-team blocks, which means they can use their quickness. James Allen on the outside and Richard Seigler in the middle carry on the tradition of speedy linebackers who have a knack for making big plays, usually with big hits.

**Defensive concerns:** The ends are crucial to what OSU does, and the Beavers lost their top three from last season. It may take a couple of junior college transfers who arrive in the fall to fill that void, and it's not likely they'll provide—at least immediately—the impact of the standouts they're replacing. Also gone is all-league SS Terrence Carroll, but seniors Jake Cookus and Calvin Carlyle split time as the free safety in 2000. Though neither might be the physical presence of Carroll, they are an experienced duo with Cookus moving to Carroll's spot.

**Special teams:** The best of it is that Ryan Cesca returns after an all-league season in which he was the Pac-10's most accurate kicker on field goals by making 16 of 19, with a long of 49 yards. Only teammate Simonton kept Cesca from being the league's leading scorer. Not that the Beavers punt a lot with their offense—only Washington had fewer (56) than OSU's 66 punts in 2000—but there is the need for a new punter, and all of the regular kick returners also used up their eligibility. Still, with a team that has an overwhelming amount of speed at the skill positions, there should be a player or two who can return punts or kickoffs.

**Coaching staff:** Once Dennis Erickson had let the rumors fly wildly enough on a possible departure for USC, he agreed to a new deal with the Beavers, and the Orange faithful let out a collective sigh of relief. At any price, he's worth it. The coach fills the stadium and has





**ROUGH AND READY:** Allen, who has big-play ability on the outside, carries on the Beavers' tradition of speedy linebackers who deliver tough hits.

prompted plans for an expansion. Considering his success at outposts like Washington State and OSU—plus those national titles at Miami—is there any question as to his standing as a premier coach? One of the team's strengths is that Erickson has a loyal staff that has worked with him throughout his career and knows his system well. Plus the new coaches who have come in seem to learn their assignments quickly. There was only one change in the offseason, and the key guys are back in offensive coordinator Tim Lappano, defensive coordinator Craig Bray and assistant head coach Gregg Smith, who is in charge of the all-important offensive line.

**Bottom line:** The Beavers, coming off their best

## TSNumber

# 3

The passes caught last season by Seth Trimmer, the team's top returning receiver. The

Beavers lost T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Robert Prescott and Chad Johnson. Pass-catching threats must emerge to open running space for backs Ken Simonton and Patrick McCall. The new top targets will have their cause boosted by the savvy passing of Jonathan Smith.

season ever, certainly suffered some significant losses on the perimeter of both units, but they shouldn't fall far, if at all. The offense won't be as formidable unless some receivers step up to replace the three standouts who completed their eligibility: T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Robert Prescott and Chad Johnson. And those departed defensive ends were terrors to opposing offenses. But another relatively easy non-league schedule will serve as a tryout camp for the new starters, and no one doubts what Erickson can do with what he has on hand. Oregon State again will contend for the Pac-10 title, especially with fellow contenders Washington and UCLA coming to Corvallis. It's all likely to come down to that December 1 Civil War game at Oregon. —B.C.



**Coach:** Pete Carroll  
(1st season)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Norm Chow (1st season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Pete Carroll  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3, 3-4  
**Starters lost:** 8  
**Lettermen lost:** 18  
**Lettermen returning:** 43  
**Site:** Los Angeles  
**Stadium:** Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (grass, 92,000)  
**Last league title won:** 1995 (tie)  
**Last bowl appearance:** 1998 (Sun Bowl, lost to TCU, 28-19)  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 9  
**2000 record:** 5-7; Pac-10: 2-6/8th  
**Website:** www.usctrojans.com

### 2000 Results

Penn State, W, 29-5  
Colorado, W, 17-14  
San Jose State, W, 34-24  
at Oregon State, L, 31-21  
Arizona, L, 31-15  
Oregon, L, 28-17  
at Stanford, L, 32-30  
California, L, 28-16  
at Arizona State, W, 44-38 (OT)  
Washington State, L, 33-27  
at UCLA, W, 38-35  
Notre Dame, L, 38-21

### Schedule

S1—San Jose State  
S8—Kansas State  
S22—at Oregon  
S29—Stanford  
O6—at Washington  
O13—Arizona State  
O20—at Notre Dame  
O27—at Arizona  
**N3—Oregon State**  
N10—at California  
N17—UCLA

### Game of the year

#### Nov. 3—Oregon State

The big football power travels to face the team desperate for success. My, how the roles have changed. This game might determine who really is in the league race. Life in the Pac-10 has gone from the L.A. Story to the Great Northwest. The farther USC falls, the harder the climb back. Can the Trojans afford to slip even more?

### Tom Dienhart's Report Card

Once again, questions nag along the offensive line. The defense is filled with lots of athletic ability, especially in the secondary.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★  
**Receivers:** ★★★★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★  
**Secondary:** ★★★★★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

### DEPTH CHART

Offense				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Kareem Kelly	6-1	185	Jr.
	Keary Colbert	6-1	185	So.
T	Eric Torres	6-5	310	So.
	Joe McGuire	6-5	280	Fr.*
G	Faasea Mailo	6-4	330	Sr.
	Derek Graf	6-4	275	Jr.
C	Lenny Vandermade	6-4	270	So.
	A.J. Single	6-3	255	Fr.*
G	Zach Wilson	6-5	315	Jr.
	Travis Watkins	6-3	295	Fr.*
T	Norm Katnik	6-5	275	So.
	Phillip Eaves	6-6	320	Jr.
TE	Kori Dickerson	6-4	230	Sr.
	Doyal Butler	6-3	250	Jr.
WR	Marcell Allmond	6-1	190	Jr.
	Frank Candela	5-9	185	Fr.*
QB	Carson Palmer	6-5	220	Jr.
	Matt Cassell	6-5	215	Fr.*
RB	Sultan McCullough	6-0	185	Jr.
	Malaefou MacKenzie	6-0	215	Sr.
FB	Charlie Landrigan	6-0	225	Sr.
	Sunny Byrd	6-1	225	Sr.

Defense				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Omar Nazel	6-5	215	So.
	Bobby DeMars	6-4	250	Sr.
T	Ryan Nielsen	6-5	275	Sr.
	Kenechi Udezue	6-3	320	Fr.*
T	Bernard Riley	6-3	305	Jr.
	Malcom Worlidge	6-2	300	Fr.*
E	Lonnie Ford	6-3	250	Sr.
	Anthony Dave	6-1	260	Jr.
OLB	Mike Pollard	6-0	230	Jr.
	Darryl Knight	6-3	225	Sr.
MLB	Aaron Graham	6-1	225	Jr.
	Lee Webb	5-11	240	Fr.*
OLB	Chris Prosser	6-2	225	So.
	John Cousins	6-2	200	Sr.
CB	Kris Richard	6-0	180	Sr.
	Antuan Simmons	5-10	190	Sr.
SS	Troy Polamalu	5-10	210	Jr.
	Matt Grootegoed	5-11	205	Fr.*
FS	Frank Strong	6-1	220	Sr.
	DeShaun Hill	6-0	195	Jr.
CB	Chris Cash	5-11	170	Sr.
	Darrell Rideaux	5-9	175	Jr.

Special Teams				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	David Newbury	5-9	170	Sr.
P	Mike MacGillivray	5-10	205	Sr.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** The Trojans won't stagnate any more under new offensive coordinator Norm Chow, the former offensive whiz at wide-open Brigham Young. USC will employ quick reads and more spread formations and will use its backs in the I-formation at times. The Trojans have the talent at the skill positions to make this multiple offense work, but their turnover problems must be fixed.

**Offensive stars:** USC has an impressive trio of skill players to build with. RB Sultan McCullough is a sprinter extraordinaire (he runs a 10.17 in the 100 meters), QB Carson Palmer has potential that probably was not reached last season despite his impressive numbers, and Kareem Kelly tops a corps of strong receivers. USC has capable and athletic pass-catchers in Marcell Allmond, Steve Stevenson and Keary Colbert. McCullough isn't known to plow his way down the middle, but that's where power rusher Malaefou MacKenzie comes in. The two are an ideal complementary package. C Lenny Vandermade gained a lot of respect as a freshman last year but must help lead a generally inexperienced line.

**Offensive concerns:** Behind Palmer, the Trojans don't have much experience at quarterback. But USC's biggest concern offensively is on the line. Vandermade and guard Zach Wilson, a two-year starter, will be the leaders. Faasea Mailo moved from tackle to guard, which means two tackle spots are open and the depth is green. Sophomores Norm Katnik, Jacob Rogers and redshirt freshman Joe McGuire are among the candidates. USC also must find a tight end to replace Antoine Harris. Junior Doyal Butler, sophomore Alex Holmes and Scott Huber will be tested by Kori Dickerson, who was making a quick transition from linebacker to tight end in the spring.

**Defensive philosophy:** The defense might use a standard 4-3, but it has personnel suited for a 3-4. Although Lonnie Ford will line up at one end spot, he has linebacker-type skills and is very athletic. Coach Pete Carroll's forte is in working with the secondary, which should be a good fit: The Trojans gave up too many big plays a year ago but have the raw talent and speed to become a good unit. Carroll has enough quickness on hand to go man-to-man and create blitzing opportunities, though the defensive changes aren't likely to be as drastic as the offensive shift.

**Defensive stars:** Although potential is always a scary word, the secondary has plenty of potential standouts.

CBs Darrell Rideaux and Kris Richard, plus Ss Troy Polamalu and Frank Strong, all showed ability last season. But redshirt freshman S Matt Grootegoed had mononucleosis last season, and no one's really sure if CB Antuan Simmons can approach the all-league form that was expected of him last season after a rather hellish year. Simmons hurt his back at the end of the 1999 season, and while doctors were checking him out after surgery, they discovered a tumor. Simmons then had massive surgery to remove it and missed all of last season. The good news for USC is that the Trojans weren't expecting him to go all-out in spring drills and yet he was.

**Defensive concerns:** The Trojans have plenty of holes to fill in the line and the linebacker unit. Zeke Moreno and Markus Steele are gone from the linebacker corps, while Dickerson has moved to the other side of the ball. Aaron Graham and Henry Wallace have some experience, and Chris Prosser showed promise last season as a redshirt freshman. But the Trojans will rely on plenty of youth here. It's the same story along the line, but there are some capable replacements for Ennis Davis, Matt Childers and Sultan Abdul-Malik. Senior Ryan Nielsen will move from tackle to play one end spot, and Ford will anchor the other end. Freshman Shaun Cody also could be a factor among the ends.

**Special teams:** The kicking game might have been the most disappointing aspect of USC's team last year. Worse, the Trojans couldn't do much to change it this season. USC tried to bring in a junior college kicker, Trevor Lancaster, but he quit the team in the spring. John Wall, who was used in short field-goal situations and PATs last season, blew out his knee and might miss the season. That again could leave the Trojans with David Newbury, who faded the past two seasons, unless somebody out there with a better leg is walking around campus. Fortunately, the punting and return games aren't as much of a problem. P Mike MacGillivray is somewhat dependable and experienced, and there are plenty of good return options. Richard was the top punt returner last season, but USC also can use Strong and Frank

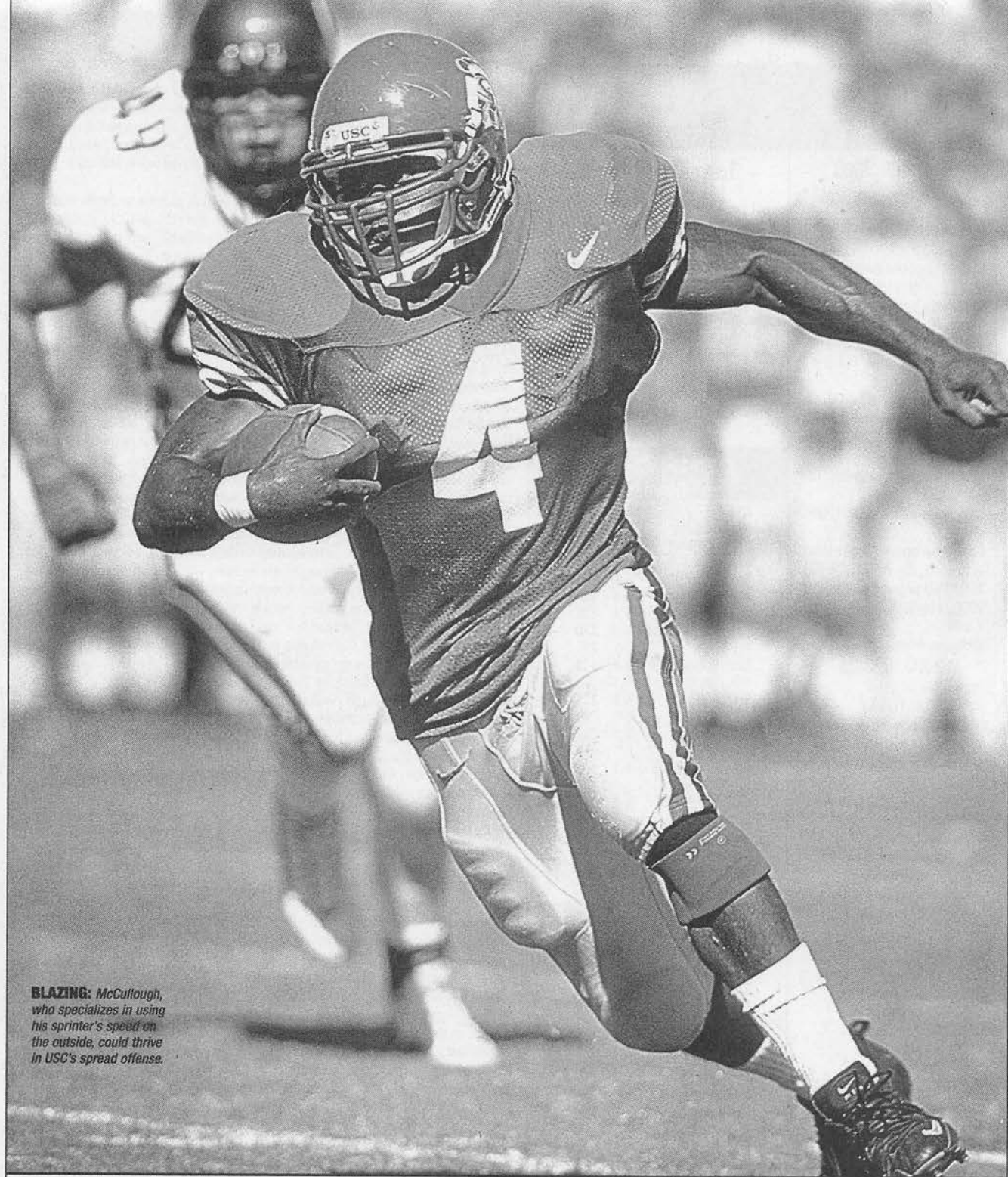
### TSNumber

# 18

The fumbles USC lost last season—and the number of interceptions the Trojans

threw. New coach Pete Carroll and his staff can do all the fancy scheming they want, but it won't matter unless the turnover totals are truncated. The 1.6 turnover ratio was the worst in the conference and a big reason the team failed to post a winning record.





**BLAZING:** McCullough, who specializes in using his sprinter's speed on the outside, could thrive in USC's spread offense.

Candela, a 22-year-old freshman from the Boston area who played minor league baseball for Milwaukee and has serious speed. Strong and Candela likely are kick-return options, too.

**Coaching staff:** Can Carroll succeed at USC after all those years in the NFL, or has the college game passed him by? The former head coach of the Patriots and Jets actually stepped into a pretty good job. Sure, expectations are high, but so is the talent level he inherited. Carroll's enthusiasm and fresh outlook could be what the Trojans need most after falling apart last season. Carroll helped himself immensely by hiring Chow to run the offense. That gives Carroll more time to spend with the defense, and particularly the secondary, and Chow is a proven offensive mind. Remember Jim McMahon and Steve Young at BYU? Those were only two of Chow's pupils during a long tenure with the

pass-happy Cougars. And Chow developed Philip Rivers, a true freshman last season, at NC State.

**Bottom line:** USC is one of those teams that drive prognosticators crazy. On paper, they look competitive enough to vie for the Pac-10 title. But they can't be picked first because they haven't proved they can handle the favorite's role. Carroll presents another wild card. Still, one thing is likely: USC won't lose five straight times like it did last season. It won't go from a national title candidate to a flop in about a month. But the schedule is demanding, and the Trojans will struggle at times. They should finish in the league's upper division and end the season with a good bowl. That would be a nice start for Carroll, or maybe a required start. After all, they don't give out free passes at USC. —B.P.

TODD WASHAW FOR TSN



# 4 Washington

National rank  
**21**

**Coach:** Rick Neuheisel (18-6, two years; 51-20 overall, six years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Keith Gilbertson (3rd season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Tim Hundley (3rd season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** 3-4  
**Starters lost:** 12  
**Lettermen lost:** 26  
**Lettermen returning:** 51  
**Site:** Seattle  
**Stadium:** Husky (artificial turf, 72,500)  
**Last league title won:** 2000 (tie)  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1994  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 16  
**2000 record:** 11-1 (beat Purdue in Rose Bowl); Pac-10: 7-1/T1st  
**Website:** www.gohuskies.com

## 2000 Results

Idaho, W, 44-20  
 Miami (Fla.), W, 34-29  
 at Colorado, W, 17-14  
 at Oregon, L, 23-16  
 Oregon State, W, 33-30  
 at Arizona State, W, 21-15  
 California, W, 36-24  
 at Stanford, W, 31-28  
 Arizona, W, 35-32  
 UCLA, W, 35-28  
 at Washington State, W, 51-3  
 Purdue, W, 34-24

## Schedule

S8—Michigan  
 S15—at Miami (Fla.)  
 S22—Idaho  
 S29—at California  
 O6—USC  
 O13—at UCLA  
 O20—Arizona  
 O27—at Arizona State  
 N3—Stanford  
**N10—at Oregon State**  
 N17—Washington State

## Game of the year

### Nov. 10—at Oregon St.

Washington escaped last year's game in Seattle when Oregon State missed a potential game-tying field goal with no time remaining. The Huskies have more prominent games early on (Michigan, at Miami), but a potentially wild rematch at Reser Stadium with the conference title on the line is clearly the biggest of the year.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The Huskies' season will be determined by line play on both sides of the ball. Injury and attrition have hurt. The offense has promising skill talent.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★  
**Receivers:** ★★★  
**Offensive line:** ★  
**Defensive line:** ★  
**Linebackers:** ★★  
**Secondary:** ★★★

Key: based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Chris Juergens	6-3	210	Jr.
	<b>Justin Robbins</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>So.</b>
T	Ryan Brooks	6-6	300	Fr.*
	Andre Reeves	6-3	320	So.
G	Elliott Zajac	6-4	315	Jr.
	Aaron Butler	6-4	325	Fr.*
C	<b>Kyle Benn</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Todd Bachert	6-4	305	So.
G	Todd Bachert	6-4	305	So.
	Nick Newton	6-4	315	So.
T	Khalif Barnes	6-5	285	Fr.*
	Andre Reeves	6-3	320	So.
TE	<b>Jerramy Stevens</b>	<b>6-7</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Joe Collier	6-7	260	Jr.
WR	<b>Todd Elstrom</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Paul Arnold	6-1	200	Jr.
QB	Cody Pickett	6-4	205	So.
	Taylor Barton	6-2	205	Jr.
RB	Willie Hurst	5-10	200	Sr.
	<b>Rich Alexis</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>So.</b>
FB	Ken Walker	6-1	230	Sr.
	Spencer Marona	6-2	250	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
OLB	Kai Ellis	6-3	245	Jr.
	Zach Tuiaosopo	6-3	235	Fr.*
DE	<b>Marcus Roberson</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Geoff Shelton	6-4	240	Jr.
NT	<b>Larry Tripplett</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Terry Johnson	6-4	275	So.
T	Jerome Stevens	6-3	300	So.
	Junior Coffin	6-3	270	Fr.*
OLB	Anthony Kelley	6-2	220	Sr.
	Jafar Williams	6-0	230	Jr.
ILB	Jamaun Williams	6-2	245	Sr.
	Tim Galloway	6-2	230	Fr.*
ILB	<b>Ben Mahdavi</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Tyler Krambrink	6-1	210	So.
CB	<b>Omare Lowe</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Lenny Haynes	5-10	195	Sr.
SS	Qwen Biddle	5-10	190	Jr.
	Jimmy Newell	6-1	195	So.
FS	<b>Greg Carothers</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Roderick Green	5-11	185	Sr.
CB	<b>Chris Massey</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Roc Alexander	6-0	185	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>John Anderson</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
P	Jim Skurski	5-11	200	Sr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

**Offensive philosophy:** The Huskies like nothing better than running over opponents. A brutish offensive line that outsizes defenses and forces them to concentrate inside sets up the option attack to the corners that was so effective with Marques Tuiaosopo as the quarterback and leading rusher. Can that continue without Tuiaosopo and with a rebuilt line? At the least, the plan of attack will have to be altered. With three tailbacks who have starting experience and four backs who gained more than 5 yards per carry, Washington should be able to run as well as any team in the Pac-10 as long as the offensive line can be rebuilt.

**Offensive stars:** TBs Rich Alexis and Willie Hurst each rushed for more than 6 yards per carry last season, and either or both might go for 1,000 yards. It's possible, if the Huskies run the two often enough. Up front, the Huskies have C Kyle Benn in the middle and TE Jerramy Stevens, who can block and receive, on the outside. Both are among the best and biggest in the nation at their positions. Often ignored the past couple years, Washington's receiving corps is as experienced as any in the league and should be ready to take on more of a role in the offense. Last year's leading receiver, Todd Elstrom, will be joined by the top receiver from 1999, Chris Juergens, who was held out last season by injuries.

**Offensive concerns:** Tuiaosopo, who was the heart and soul of the Huskies and their leader in every way, will be the most difficult player in the league to replace. It might take the Huskies a game or two to settle on his replacement, with the likely choice sophomore Cody Pickett or junior college transfer Taylor Barton, who finally completed his odyssey from Colorado to join another Rick Neuheisel team.

The pressure could be taken off the new quarterback with an effective running game, but that, too, might take some time to get into gear with four new starters on the line.

There's not much chance to warm to the task, with the first two games against Michigan and at Miami.

**Defensive philosophy:** Unlike most Pac-10 teams, Washington plays its front seven in a 3-4 alignment, so there's usually a slight adjustment involved when opposing offenses see the Huskies. The scheme also plays to Washington's strength, which is depth at linebacker. A concern about young cornerbacks has forced Washington to design much of its pass coverage to protect them in recent years. That could change this year. The corners are becoming veterans in the secondary and should be seasoned enough to handle man-to-man coverage.

**Defensive stars:** There won't be a tougher defensive lineman in the league to deal with than NT Larry Tripplett, who provided the Huskies a big early victory for this year when he decided to return for his senior season rather than head for the NFL. He usually commands a double-team, which isn't easy to do because Marcus Roberson became almost as big a force up front in his first fall with the Huskies. With those two tying up offensive lines, LBs Ben Mahdavi and Jafar Williams should be able to post big tackle totals.

**Defensive concerns:** The Huskies might have had the best pair of returning safeties in the league, except for the spinal injury suffered by Curtis Williams and the decision by Hakim Akbar to leave early for the NFL. Without those two to cover for the cornerbacks, the Huskies could be more vulnerable to the big play that they schemed to avoid last season. There also figures to be more pressure on this unit if the offense can't control the ball and the clock as well as it did the past two seasons, a likely result of all the changes on that side.

**Special teams:** John Anderson might not have been as consistent as the Huskies would have liked last season in missing 5-of-17 field-goal attempts and four extra-point tries, but he might have the strongest leg in the league. Will some of that be lost, though, if he is forced to add punting duties? The Huskies don't figure to be as consistent offensively as last year, so the punt total is likely to rise from a

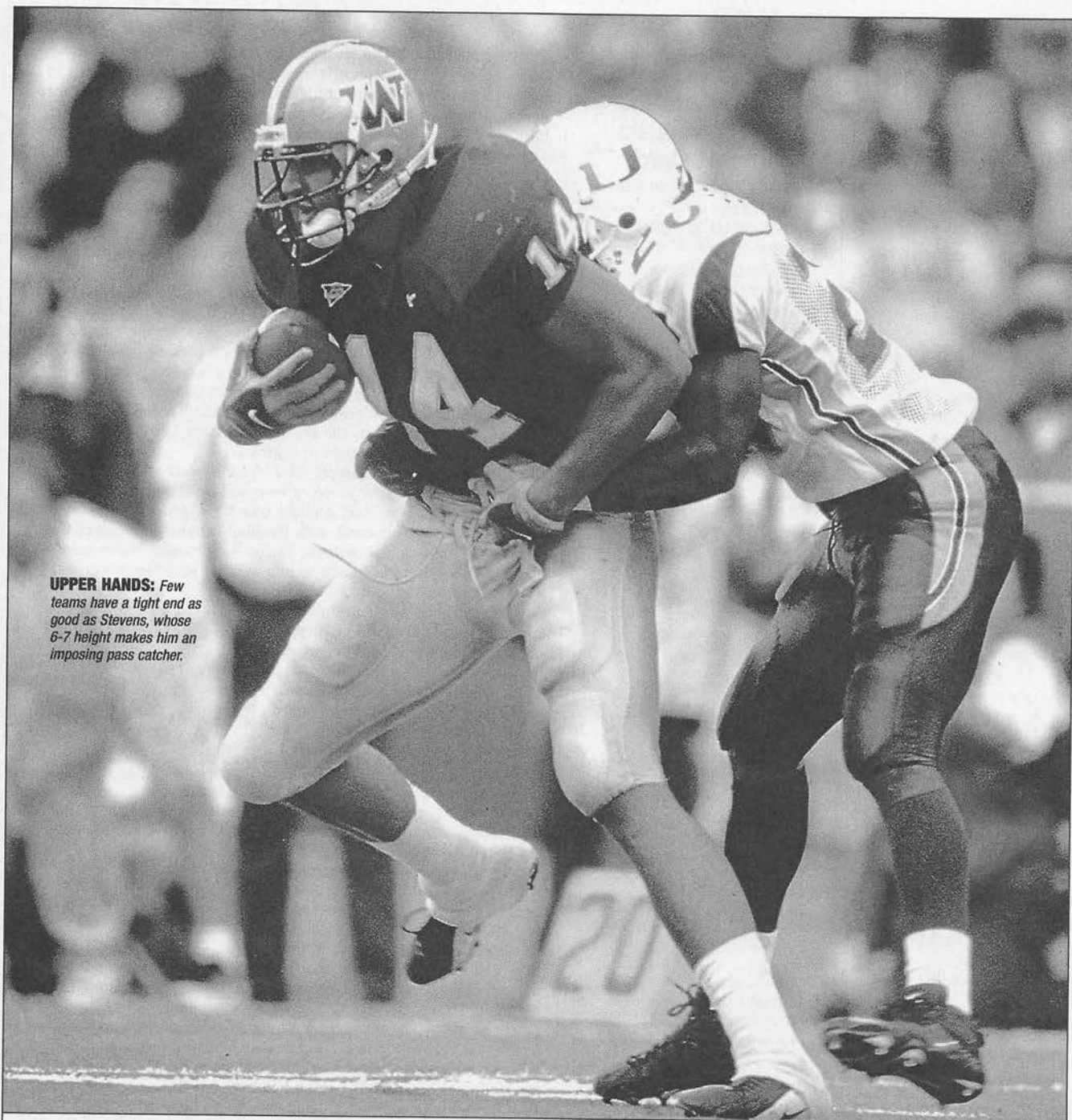
## TSNumber

**56.8**

The percentage of the offense that departed

QB Marques Tuiaosopo accounted for last season. He passed for 2,146 yards and rushed for 406 for a total of 2,552 yards. But his most important number was 11. That was the victory total for the Huskies, who won the Pac-10 championship last year for the first time since 1995 en route to winning the Rose Bowl.





**UPPER HANDS:** Few teams have a tight end as good as Stevens, whose 6-7 height makes him an imposing pass catcher.

league-low of 56 of last season. For returns, Derrick Johnson, who led the conference in average return yardage last season (24.2), should improve as a sophomore, which could lead opposing teams to push their kickoffs away from him. There should be speedy possibilities among those young tailbacks or cornerbacks. It would have been a nice addition, however, had Olympian Ja'Warren Hooker decided he wanted to return to football instead of concentrating on track and field.

**Coaching staff:** Rick Neuheisel's flirtation with the NFL ended almost as soon as it started, but there was a definite concern that offensive coordinator/assistant head coach Keith Gilbertson might be lost to a pro team. He wasn't, and that promises to be a key retention for the Huskies as they decide on how much tinkering needs to be done with the offense. If Neuheisel is someday lured away by an NFL team, Gilbertson should be in line for the job. A staff that has done as good a job as any in the league in its two seasons had only one change in the offseason, with Tony Alford

taking over responsibility for the running backs after Wayne Moses was lured away by a significant pay raise at USC. Alford's group will carry a heavy load early as the Huskies choose a starting quarterback and the offensive line settles in as a group.

**Bottom line:** All that kept Washington from a perfect regular season in 2000 and a chance to play for the national title was a loss at Oregon, and the Ducks aren't even on the schedule this fall. But there hasn't been a repeat Pac-10 champion since the Huskies won three straight titles ending in 1992, which would suggest Washington shouldn't be the favorite this year. Also working against the Huskies is the task of replacing a quarterback and those formidable early games with Michigan and Miami before the Pac-10 season starts. With six starters returning on offense and six on defense, and a pair of strong recruiting classes the past two winters, the Huskies won't suffer much of a drop-off. But they will slide enough to keep them out of Pasadena for the national title game. —B.C.



**Coach:** Bob Toledo (35-23, 5 years; 64-59 overall, 10 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Kelly Skipper (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Phil Snow (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 7

**Lettermen lost:** 15

**Lettermen returning:** 51

**Site:** Los Angeles

**Stadium:** Rose Bowl (grass, 94,000)

**Last league title won:** 1998

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1997

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 20

**2000 record:** 6-6 (lost to Wisconsin in Sun Bowl);

Pac-10: 3-5/T5th

**Website:** www.uclabruins.com

### 2000 Results

Alabama, W, 35-24

Fresno State, W, 24-21

Michigan, W, 23-20

at Oregon, L, 29-10

Arizona State, W, 38-31

at California, L, 46-38

Oregon State, L, 44-38

at Arizona, W, 27-24

Stanford, W, 37-35

at Washington, L, 35-28

USC, L, 38-35

Wisconsin, L, 21-20

### Schedule

S1—at Alabama

S8—at Kansas

S15—Arizona State

S22—Ohio State

S29—at Oregon State

**O13—Washington**

O20—California

O27—at Stanford

N3—at Washington State

N10—Oregon

N17—at USC

## Game of the year

### Oct. 13—Washington

UCLA is still a crummy road team, so chalk up a loss September 29 at Oregon State. But the Washington game—at home with a off-week to prepare—is a big one the Bruins can win. UCLA blew up in the second half of last year's game in Seattle, lost the lead and never recovered. This is a must-win game for Bob Toledo's shaky status.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

Strong line play on both sides of the ball light go a long way toward helping coach Bob Toledo enjoy the strong season he so badly needs.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★

**Receivers:** ★★

**Offensive line:** ★★★

**Defensive line:** ★★★★★

**Linebackers:** ★★★

**Secondary:** ★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Brian Poli-Dixon	6-5	216	Sr.
	Jon Dubravac	6-4	214	Sr.
T	Bryce Bohlander	6-6	292	Jr.
	Ed Anderson	6-6	281	Sr.
G	Blake Worley	6-6	309	Jr.
	Paul Mociler	6-5	295	Fr.*
C	Troy Danoff	6-5	307	Sr.
	John Ream	6-4	298	Fr.*
G	Shane Lehmann	6-5	284	So.
	Eyoseph Efeaff	6-3	285	Fr.
T	Mike Saffer	6-5	305	Jr.
	Steven Vieira	6-6	296	Fr.
TE	Bryan Fletcher	6-5	235	Sr.
	Mike Seidman	6-5	241	Jr.
WR	Tab Perry	6-3	218	So.
	Craig Bragg	6-1	183	Fr.
QB	Cory Paus	6-2	212	Jr.
	Scott McEwan	6-3	200	Sr.
RB	DeShaun Foster	6-1	215	Sr.
	Akil Harris	6-0	209	So.
FB	Ed Jeremia-Stansbury	6-2	259	Sr.
	Matt Stanley	6-3	243	Sr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Kenyon Coleman	6-6	276	Sr.
	Mat Ball	6-6	263	So.
T	Anthony Fletcher	6-4	295	Sr.
	Ken Kocher	6-4	306	Sr.
T	Rodney Liesle	6-4	295	So.
	Steve Morgan	6-3	288	Jr.
E	Rusty Williams	6-4	270	Jr.
	Dave Ball	6-6	265	So.
OLB	Brandon Chillar	6-3	229	So.
	Tim Warfield	6-2	237	Fr.
MLB	Robert Thomas	6-2	237	Sr.
	Dennis Link	6-2	210	Fr.
OLB	Ryan Nece	6-3	224	Sr.
	Marcus Reese	6-2	209	Jr.
CB	Ricky Manning Jr.	5-9	180	Jr.
	Ryan Wikert	6-2	186	So.
SS	Marques Anderson	6-0	201	Sr.
	Jason Stephens	6-2	192	Sr.
FS	Kevin Brant	6-0	192	So.
	Ben Emanuel II	6-3	202	Fr.*
CB	Joe Hunter	5-11	171	Jr.
	Keith Short	5-9	167	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Chris Griffith	6-2	198	Jr.
P	Nate Fikse	5-9	180	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold*

*\* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** Coach Bob Toledo promoted Kelly Skipper from running backs coach to offensive coordinator when Al Borges left for California, but make no mistake: It's still primarily Toledo's offense. UCLA most often will use a pro-style set with some shifts and multiple formations to throw off opponents. WR Freddie Mitchell may have left early for the NFL, but the Bruins still have plenty of good skill-position players. The ball can wind up in the hands of receiver Brian Poli-Dixon, RB DeShaun Foster or either of UCLA's talented tight ends. If Foster can make it through the season injury-free, he will go down as one of the Bruins' best all-time rushers.

**Offensive stars:** Foster and Poli-Dixon both played well last season after injuries limited them the year before. Foster broke his hand in midseason, but you had to look closely to notice: He missed one game and still finished with 1,037 yards despite playing hurt the rest of the season. Foster wore protective padding over the injury and wasn't at 100 percent, but as opponents found, a Foster at 70 or 80 percent is still tough to stop. If Foster needs any help, Akil Harris is right behind him after proving himself as a freshman last season. Manuel White, a redshirt freshman, is also worth watching. He received offensive scout team MVP honors last season. Poli-Dixon looks like more of an NFL prospect than Mitchell did with his 6-5 height, which he knows how to use well, but he has toiled in Mitchell's shadow. That won't happen now. The offensive line took a hit with the loss of Oscar Cabrera and Brian Polak at the guard spots, but UCLA is still deep there. Troy Danoff, Mike Saffer and Bryce Bohlander are returning starters.

**Offensive concerns:** Can QB Cory Paus stay healthy? The Bruins' junior has a strong arm, ability to see the entire field and intelligence. Even as a sophomore last year, he showed leadership qualities. But he broke his collarbone at the end of the last two seasons and separated his shoulder in the season opener last season. Fortunately for UCLA, backups Ryan McCann and Scott McEwan have performed well at times in Paus' absence. Though McCann had the No. 2 job last year, McEwan could wrestle it away this time. UCLA's two fullbacks, Ed Jeremia-Stansbury and Matt Stanley, are coming off shoulder surgeries. Jeremia-Stansbury showed versatility last year after moving over from linebacker, blocking, catching passes and occasionally running with the ball. The Bruins also must replace two quality guards, Oscar Cabrera and Brian Polak. But they do have experience in Blake Worley, who started 10 games at tackle and is moving over to guard this season. UCLA also has a high-school all-American in Paul Mociler at guard.

**Defensive philosophy:** The basic look will be the same, 4-3, but expect the Bruins to use less nickel coverage and be more aggressive under first-year coordinator Phil Snow. This is a team that gave up far too many third-down conversions last year, which was one reason for all the close losses. The strength of this group should be the line, which is deep, but the Bruins need a healthy core of linebackers to shore up what has been a disappointing defensive unit.

**Defensive stars:** Pac-10 teams were lucky last year—they didn't have to face Kenyon Coleman's combination of speed, size and strength because he blew his knee out against Michigan in the third game. Coleman is back for another season, and the evidence suggests he will cause offensive tackles plenty of problems. He had 50 tackles, nine for a loss, in 1999. Rusty Williams and Ken Kocher also have the ability to be anchors for the line if they stay healthy. Sean Phillips wasn't quite Coleman when filling in at defensive end last season, but who is? This season, Phillips is projected at tackle and should have an impact there. Mostly, though, the line should be strong because of its numbers. UCLA can rotate nine guys there and keep the starters fresh.

**Defensive concerns:** Williams took spring practice off while recovering from shoulder surgery. He was limited somewhat by the injury last season. Brothers Dave and Mat Ball are also in the defensive end picture; both have some starting experience. Kocher's array of injuries was one reason the Bruins had such a porous defense. He was on the field in nine games but never had the kind of impact he did a year earlier. The linebackers also were plagued with injuries. Robert Thomas had a stress fracture in his foot. Ryan Nece had surgery on both shoulders, and, despite being a three-year starter, he is not guaranteed to get his job back. The defensive backs are young and mostly inexperienced. SS Marques Anderson is a good big-play defender,

## TSNumber

# 41

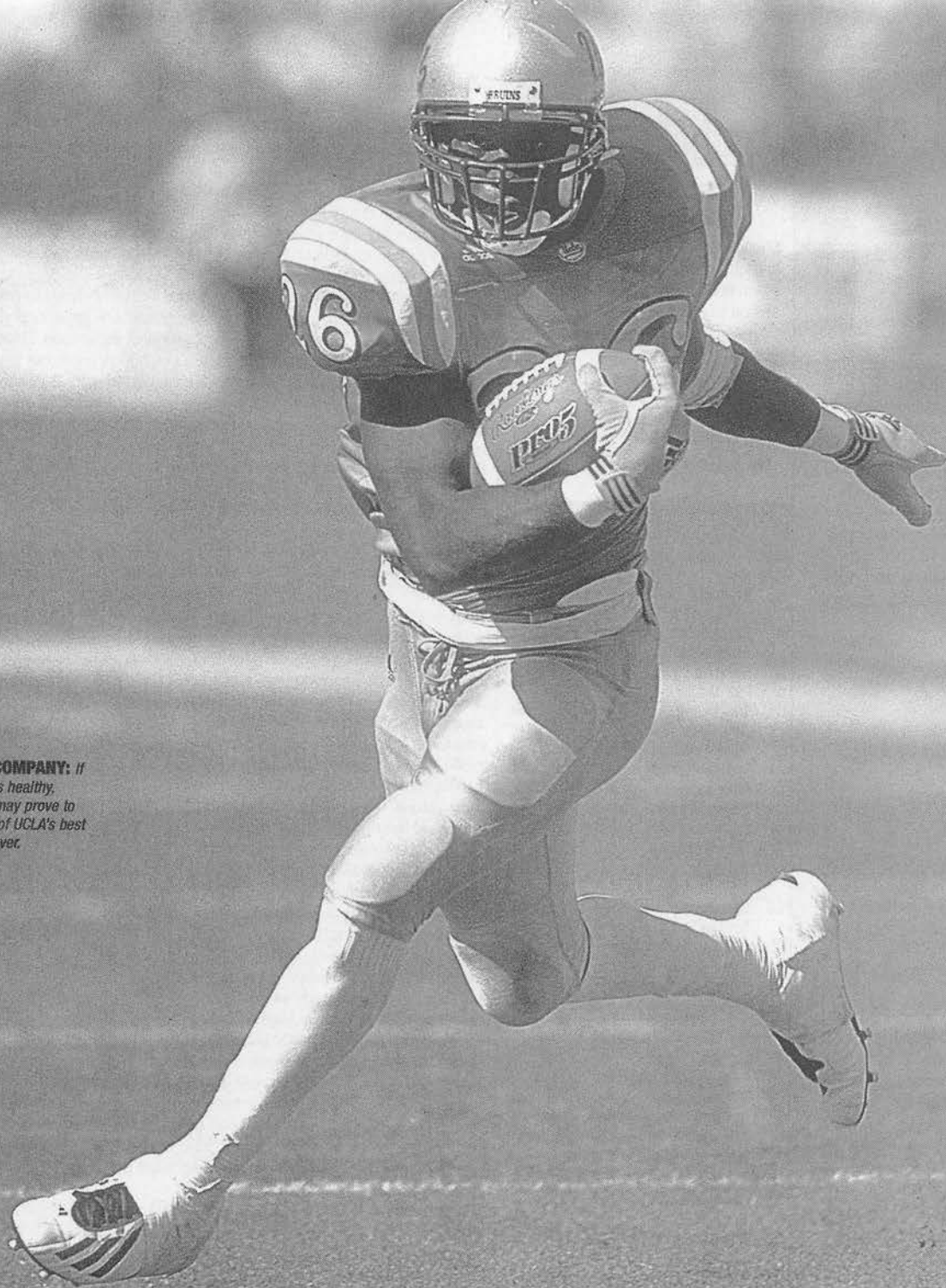
The opponents' success rate, in percentage, on third downs. As a result, don't expect the Bruins to play as many

nickel packages after getting picked apart in 2000. The UCLA linebackers must make more key stops for the Bruins to be a serious contender. That means players such as Robert Thomas and Marcus Reese are on the spot for a team that is 10-12 the past two seasons.



JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

**FAST COMPANY:** If he stays healthy, Foster may prove to be one of UCLA's best backs ever.



and CB Ricky Manning is an improving cover man, but they can't do everything.

**Special teams:** The Bruins have a pair of steady junior kickers in P Nate Fiske and K Chris Griffith. Both were all-Pac-10 second-team picks a year ago. Fiske posted a 43.2-yard average, tops in the league, while Griffith has a .750 career field-goal percentage. UCLA also has an experienced long snapper in Jeff Grau. The Bruins have plenty of options among return men, but Manning was the team's punt return leader last season. Tab Perry was more than reliable on kickoff returns, too. WR Craig Bragg, a redshirt freshman, will give UCLA another option for returns.

**Coaching staff:** The pressure is beginning to build on Bob Toledo, who might have to win at least eight games and go to an upper-level bowl this season to save his scalp. Toledo should have a pretty good idea of

which way the winds are blowing by October: The Bruins play at Alabama, at Kansas, have Ohio State at home and play at Oregon State by the end of September. It probably helps that Toledo hired Snow, the former defensive coordinator at Arizona State, to shore up a defense that simply must improve.

**Bottom line:** The Bruins have lost 15 of their past 25 games and dropped five games last season by a total of 25 points. Sure, they've had probably more than their share of injuries the past two seasons, but injuries can't be blamed for all of the problems. To get over the top this time, the defense has to be better. UCLA gave up an average of 412 yards last season and allowed opponents to convert 41.4 percent of their third downs. If UCLA can stop people, it certainly has the offense to compete for the league championship. But that's a pretty big if. —B.P.



# 6 Arizona State

**National rank**  
**37**

**Coach:** Dirk Koetter (1st year; 26-10 overall, three years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Dirk Koetter  
**Defensive coordinator:** Brent Guy (first season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple, spread  
**Defensive scheme:** Front four, two linebackers, three safeties, two corners  
**Starters lost:** 8  
**Lettermen lost:** 18  
**Lettermen returning:** 52  
**Site:** Tempe, Ariz. **Stadium:** Sun Devil (grass, 73,379)  
**Last league title won:** 1996  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1998  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 33  
**2000 record:** 6-6 (lost to Boston College in Aloha Bowl); Pac-10: 3-5/T5th  
**Website:** www.TheSunDevils.com

## 2000 results

at San Diego State, W, 10-7  
Colorado State, W, 13-10  
Utah State, W, 44-20  
at UCLA, L, 38-31  
California, W, 30-10  
Washington, L, 21-15  
at Washington State, W, 23-20  
Oregon, L, 56-55  
USC, L, 44-38  
at Stanford, L, 29-7  
at Arizona, W, 30-7  
Boston College, L, 31-17  
Penn State, W, 21-6

## Schedule

S8—San Diego State  
S15—at UCLA  
S22—at Stanford  
S29—San Jose State  
O6—Louisiana-Lafayette  
O13—at USC  
**O20—Oregon State**  
O27—Washington  
N3—at Oregon  
N10—Washington State  
N23—Arizona

## Game of the year

**Oct. 20—Oregon State**  
The soft early part of the season should let coach Dirk Koetter's system sink in smoothly. This game, at home against one of the league champs, will be a test of whether the system is working. The Sun Devils have the firepower on offense to score on OSU's revamped defense. But can ASU find a way to slow down the Beavers?

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The offense might be undone if no quarterback takes charge. At the least, the team should be able to count on good line play on both sides.

**Offensive backfield:** ★  
**Receivers:** ★★★★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★  
**Secondary:** ★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

Offense				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Shaun McDonald	5-9	163	So.
	Justin Taplin	6-0	196	Jr.
T	Levi Jones	6-6	294	Sr.
	Travis Scott	6-6	311	Sr.
G	Marquise Muldrow	6-3	317	Sr.
	Drew Hodgdon	6-3	301	So.
C	Scott Peters	6-3	290	Sr.
	Regis Crawford	6-3	310	So.
G	Regis Crawford	6-3	320	So.
	Drew Hodgdon	6-3	301	So.
T	Kyle Kosier	6-6	300	Sr.
	Brandon Macias	6-7	320	So.
TE	Mike Pinkard	6-5	258	So.
	Frank Maddox	6-3	245	So.
WR	Donnie O'Neal	6-2	181	Sr.
	Ryan Dennard	6-4	212	Jr.
QB	Jeff Krohn	6-2	190	So.
	Matt Cooper	6-5	240	Jr.
RB	Delvon Flowers	5-11	196	Sr.
	Tom Pace	5-10	195	Sr.
FB	Mike Karney	6-0	265	So.
	Steve Hoppe	6-2	203	So.

Defense				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Brian Montesanto	6-6	240	So.
	Chad Howell	6-4	239	So.
T	Kurt Wallin	6-2	255	Sr.
	Danny Masaniai	6-2	315	Sr.
T	Tommie Twonsend	6-3	294	Sr.
	Paul Glass	6-6	335	Sr.
E	Terrell Suggs	6-5	240	So.
	Ben Fox	6-2	260	So.
OLB	Solomon Bates	6-2	253	Jr.
	Mason Unck	6-2	228	So.
ROV	Riccardo Stewart	5-11	197	Fr.*
	Michael Holloway	6-0	200	Fr.*
OLB	Eric Fields	6-3	236	Sr.
	Mason Unck	6-2	228	So.
CB	R.J. Oliver	5-9	168	Fr.*
	Josiah Igono	5-9	176	Jr.
SS	Willie Daniel	6-0	203	Sr.
	Brandon Falkner	6-0	202	Jr.
FS	Alfred Williams	6-2	203	Jr.
	Davaran Hightower	6-1	208	Sr.
CB	Emanuel Franklin	5-11	184	Fr.*
	O.J. Hackett	5-10	165	Jr.

## Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Mike Barth	6-0	210	Jr.
P	Nick Murphy	6-0	188	Sr.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** It's not quite Arena football, but the brand Arizona State will be running might be as close as you can get on the big field. Sun Devils fans likely won't be bored, even if the team doesn't win all the time. Under first-year coach Dirk Koetter, ASU will incorporate more motion, more multi-receiver sets and more trick plays. The Sun Devils often will go sideline to sideline, giving defenses a constantly changing look. Though ASU might pass up to 40 percent of the time, it won't forget about RB Delvon Flowers and company. Former coach Bruce Snyder emphasized the run more, but if Koetter's schemes are successful, Flowers might ultimately gain more yardage when things open up a bit more. Two running backs will be used most of the time, again in many different forms. ASU will use two tailbacks, and a tailback and fullback.

**Offensive stars:** When TE Todd Heap decided to leave a year early for the NFL, it became obvious—the Sun Devils are led by their offensive line. ASU has good depth and plenty of experience on the line, losing only T Victor Leyva. The group is headed by returning starters C Scott Peters, G Kyle Kosier and T Levi Jones. Regis Crawford is an up-and-coming lineman, too. Flowers appears to be OK after sitting out last season with a knee injury. ASU also has junior Tom Pace and sophomore Mike Williams in the backfield. Both played heavily last season. FB Mike Karney will be used, but it is uncertain whether he'll get the ball more at H-back or tight end.

**Offensive concerns:** QB Jeff Krohn was effective at times while replacing the frequently injured Ryan Kealy last season, but Krohn wasn't always healthy,

either. He was banged up often and suffered two concussions, making it particularly iffy whether he can make it through this season unhurt. Kealy also must beat out redshirt freshman Andrew Walter. Though ASU has plenty of receivers to fill out all those sets, none is a proven big-play guy. The Sun Devils used to turn to Heap and Richard Williams for the big catch last season but will have to hope somebody steps in. Sophomore Shaun McDonald and junior Justin Taplin are top returning wideouts who will get the ball often in the new scheme, but redshirt freshman Mike Smith and true freshman Daryl Lightfoot could make immediate impacts. Without Heap around, Koetter is de-emphasizing the tight end position.

**Defensive philosophy:** Koetter is going with three safeties this season, though one of them, likely Willie Daniel, will be almost a hybrid linebacker at times and will line up all over the field. Davaran Hightower, sensing the overload at tailback and the need for safeties, has moved to the defensive backfield. While Hightower probably won't start, he will get on the field often. ASU will go with four down linemen, headed by end Terrell Suggs and will use two linebackers along with the five defensive backs.

**Defensive stars:** ASU had trouble blocking Suggs in spring practice and the rest of the Pac-10 probably will, too. He's quick and tough. Junior S Alfred Williams picked up the nickname "HMO" from teammates and not just because he broke UCLA TB DeShaun Foster's hand last season. Williams has hurt a few of his own teammates with hard hitting. Williams likely will be surrounded by Daniel and either Monte Franks or Brandon Falkner at the other safety spots, with Hightower fitting in somewhere if he picks up things quickly enough. ASU will have the luxury of moving several defensive linemen in and out. Brian Montesanto and Danny Masaniai are the most promising.

**Defensive concerns:** The ASU defense used to revolve around LB Adam Archuleta, who had a nose for making plays despite his small (5-11, 211) stature. Now there are five defensive backs making plays. But the Sun Devils still have good linebackers—Solomon Bates will take one spot and either sophomore Mason Unck or senior Eric Fields will be at the other spot. Unck is coming off a knee injury suffered in the spring of 2000. The biggest question defensively might be how the two cornerbacks do: Junior Machtier Clay probably will start alongside any number of candidates. O.J. Hackett, a junior college transfer, will compete for time with redshirt freshmen R.J. Oliver and Emmanuel Franklin.

**Special teams:** K Mike Barth missed most of spring practice after an emergency appendectomy, but he should be fine by this fall. He was dependable

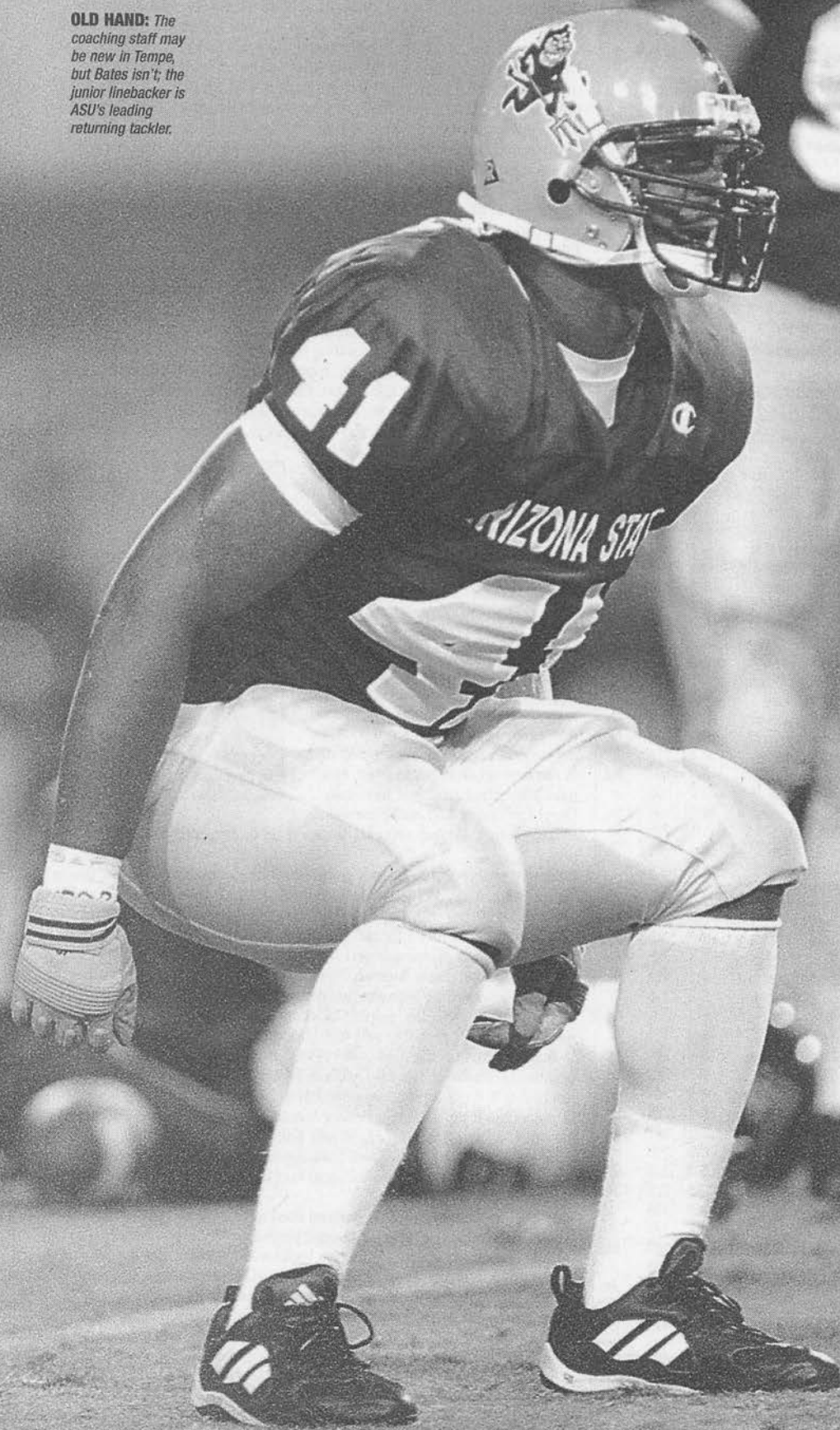
## TSNumber

**2.8**

The Sun Devils emphasized the run last season but came up with only 2.8 yards per carry and 114.2 yards per game. They could be more efficient on the ground in the new wide-open scheme. The best way to describe new coach Dirk Koetter's offensive system is basketball on grass. But there better be enough deception there for the Sun Devils to develop the run.



**OLD HAND:** The coaching staff may be new in Tempe, but Bates isn't; the junior linebacker is ASU's leading returning tackler.



last season as was punter Nick Murphy. McDonald and Taplin will return as ASU's punt returners, while Heap and Richard Williams left a void in kickoff returns. McDonald and Taplin could fill that role, too, or Koetter might turn to one of the younger returners. Among the candidates are Flowers and Hightower plus a number of promising younger players such as freshman Lightfoot. Long snapper Jay Breckenridge is back, but he has little job security if ASU doesn't see an improvement there; long snapping was a weak spot in the Sun Devils' special teams last season.

**Coaching staff:** Koetter developed a reputation as one of college football's top young coaches last season, and his innovations will be particularly welcome at Arizona State, which was beginning to see a drop in attendance under Snyder. Koetter brought seven of his Boise State assistants with him and added Tom Osborne as assistant head coach and special teams/tight end coach. Osborne gained respect at Oregon, where he also served as a special teams/tight end coach. Koetter also retained Ron English from Snyder's staff as a cornerbacks coach.

**Bottom line:** Koetter doesn't have much time to get it done at impatient ASU, which considers itself a football power. He does inherit a good deal of talent and has strong lines to build with on both sides of the ball. Koetter's track record indicates he won't need long to upgrade the program, though it is too much to expect the Sun Devils to compete for the Pac-10 title right away. Koetter has an easy non-conference schedule, since Oklahoma dropped out of its planned September 1 game in Norman, Okla., and a return game set for 2002. ASU barely found a replacement opponent, Louisiana-Lafayette, while it also has San Diego State and San Jose State coming to Sun Devil Stadium. But ASU's first three Pac-10 games are on the road, and none of them will be easy. A bowl game probably will be enough to keep the fans and alumni pleased, but the Devils probably need to be more competitive after this year. —B.P.

JASON WISE FOR TSN



# 7 Stanford

**Offensive philosophy:** The pro-style attack is more effective with balance, and the Cardinal should be closer to the optimum in that regard than in past seasons, with a big, talented line returning almost intact and two solid running backs. As always, there is talent at quarterback—at least two deep this season—and the assumption is that Stanford will develop another outstanding receiver.

**Offensive stars:** Either senior starter Randy Fasani, who threw 11 touchdown passes and only six interceptions last year, or backup Chris Lewis, who filled in well as a freshman last year, will put up big numbers as the quarterback. Both are gifted players who know the offense and run it well. They and the running backs also will benefit from one of the league's best lines, led by all-leaguer Eric Heitmann at guard. Veteran Zack Quaccia figures to man one of the other inside positions.

**Offensive concerns:** After losing Troy Walters and DeRonnie Pitts in consecutive seasons, is there a go-to receiver left on The Farm? There are certainly some talented choices, but are any of them the game-breaker that Stanford had the past two years? Pitts caught 77 passes last year. Senior Ryan Wells, the leading returning wideout, had 19 catches. RBs Brian Allen and Kerry Carter are solid, but neither has shown the ability to carry the load in the fourth quarter when Stanford is attempting to protect a lead or keep the defense off the field.

**Defensive philosophy:** Finally with some experience and more talent in the secondary, the Cardinal might not have to do quite as much planning with the idea of protecting its defensive backs. That's a good thing, too, because with the loss of Willie Howard and Riall Johnson up front, that area no longer is the strength it has been the past two seasons.

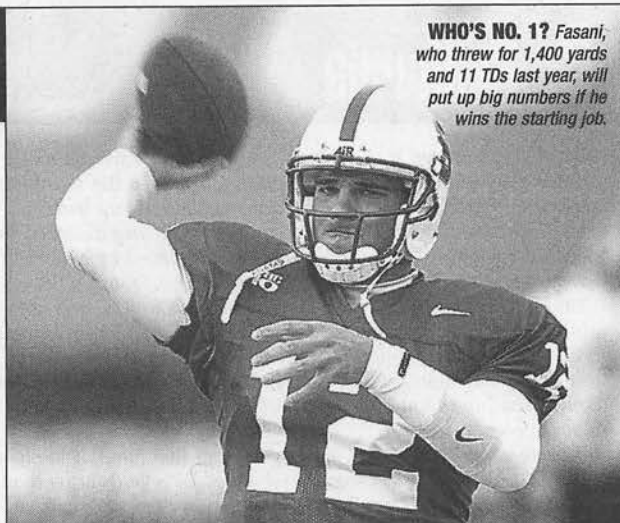
**Defensive stars:** Undersized as he might be for an inside linebacker, former RB Coy Wire is a playmaker on the inside, with eight sacks among his team-high 81 tackles last season. If he doesn't make the big play, S Tank Williams, who finished third on the team in tackles and had three interceptions last season, will.

**Defensive concerns:** There are no linemen like Howard on this roster, so offenses won't have to scheme around his presence in the middle this year. There's also not a pass rusher the likes of Johnson on the outside, so Stanford might have to use Wire or the other linebackers on more blitzes to help rush passers.

**Special teams:** In K Mike Biselli, the Cardinal has a player who was the best in the league at field goals two years ago but who struggled last season, making only 7 of 12 attempts. The problem might be traced to Stanford's asking Biselli to also be the punter, which he was for the first half of the season. With the search on for a new punter and Biselli back to his one assignment, both areas should improve. The Cardinal also has one of the best kickoff returners in the league in Ryan Wells, probably a good thing for a team with a questionable defense.

**Coaching staff:** The true strength of the Stanford football team might be in Tyrone Willingham and his assistants. There were the usual overtures from other teams—college and NFL—to Willingham, but he rebuffed them again. Somehow, he also increased the experience of his staff despite the personnel raiding that accompanied coaching changes in the conference. Consider Stanford's depth here: Along with offensive coordinator Bill Diedrick, and Willingham now has John McDonell, who was coordinator at Washington State last year, to split duties on the offensive line. The defense coordinated by Kent Baer still has a pair of veteran Pac-10 assistants, Dave Tipton for the line and Denny Schuler for the secondary. Schuler is a former coordinator on offense or defense for three other conference schools. It all adds up to a well-coached team that's always prepared.

**Bottom line:** Stanford figures to bounce back from a losing season, but don't expect the Cardinal to be a title contender. The veteran quarterback and a very good offensive line should translate into plenty of points, but there won't always be enough of them to overcome defensive lapses. —B.P.



**WHO'S NO. 1?** Fasani, who threw for 1,400 yards and 11 TDs last year, will put up big numbers if he wins the starting job.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

## National Rank 49

**Coach:** Tyrone Willingham (35-33-1, 6 years; 35-33-1 overall, 6 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Bill Diedrick (4th season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Kent Baer (3rd season)

**Offensive scheme:** Pro set  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 6

**Lettermen lost:** 14

**Lettermen returning:** 40

**Site:** Stanford, Calif.

**Stadium:** Stanford (grass, 85,500)

**Last league title won:** 1999

**Last bowl appearance:** 1999

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 60

**2000 record:** 5-6; Pac-10: 4-4/4th

**Website:** www.gostanford.com

### 2000 Results

at Washington State, W, 24-10

at San Jose State, L, 40-27

Texas, W, 27-24

Arizona, L, 27-3

at Notre Dame, L, 20-14

at Oregon State, L, 38-6

USC, W, 32-30

Washington, L, 31-28

at UCLA, L, 37-35

Arizona State, W, 29-7

at California, W, 36-30 (OT)

### Schedule

S8—Boston College

S15—at San Jose State

S22—Arizona State

S29—at USC

O13—Washington State

O20—at Oregon

O27—UCLA

N3—at Washington

N10—at Arizona

N17—California

N24—Notre Dame

## DEPTH CHART Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Luke Powell	5-8	165	Jr.
	Jamien McCullum	6-0	190	Sr.
T	Kirk Chambers	6-7	297	So.
	Edmond O'Neal	6-4	265	Jr.
G	<b>Greg Schindler</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	<b>Paul Weinacht</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
C	<b>Zack Quaccia</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Mike Holman	6-3	285	Jr.
G	<b>Eric Heitmann</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Dustin Stimson	6-3	290	Jr.
T	Kwame Harris	6-7	320	So.
	Mike Sullivan	6-7	310	Jr.
TE	Matt Wright	6-5	260	Sr.
	Brett Pierce	6-6	245	Jr.
WR	Ryan Wells	6-0	195	Sr.
	Caleb Bowman	6-1	185	Sr.
QB	<b>Randy Fasani</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Chris Lewis	6-3	205	Jr.
RB	<b>Brian Allen</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Kerry Carter	6-2	235	Jr.
FB	<b>Casey Moore</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Eran Landry	6-2	235	Jr.

## Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Austin Lee	6-6	270	Sr.
	Drew Caylor	6-6	260	Jr.
T	<b>Matt Leonard</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Craig Albrecht	6-5	295	Sr.
NG	Trey Freeman	6-3	312	Sr.
	Travis Pfeifer	6-4	274	Sr.
E	<b>Marcus Hoover</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Will Svitek	6-7	235	So.
ILB	<b>Matt Friedrichs</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	David Bergeron	6-4	245	So.
ILB	<b>Coy Wire</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Brian Gaffney	6-2	233	Sr.
OLB	Anthony Gabriel	6-3	240	Sr.
	Scott Giles	6-4	225	Sr.
CB	<b>Ruben Carter</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Garry Cobb	5-11	180	Sr.
SS	Simba Hodari	6-1	202	Sr.
	Colin Branch	6-0	200	Sr.
FS	<b>Tank Williams</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jason White	6-0	184	Sr.
CB	<b>Ryan Fernandez</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Brian Taylor	5-11	183	Sr.

## Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Mike Biselli</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
P	<b>Eric Johnson</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 8 California

**Offensive philosophy:** If all goes as planned, the Bears will look dramatically different than the team that has been the most conservative in the Pac-10. Their previous approach—run twice, throw once (usually followed by a punt)—which was designed to not lose a game with a mistake, has been replaced by a varied attack with the arrival of coordinator Al Borges from UCLA. California will use runs to set up the play-action pass, and use numerous formations and regular shifts to force defenses to react. It all can only be an improvement, considering the Bears were last in the league in scoring and ninth in first downs, third-down conversions and total offense in 2000, familiar placing for the team in recent years.

**Offensive stars:** Even with defenses geared to stop him, TB Joe Igber rushed for 901 yards last season and added 229 yards in receiving. He should be even more effective in a more wide-open attack and with a line that includes potential all-leaguers at tackle (Langston Walker), guard (Scott Tercero) and possibly center (if Brandon Ludwig succeeds in the move there from guard). The likely starting five has a combined 75 starts.

**Offensive concerns:** Can the Bears make it all work? QB Kyle Boller has at times looked overwhelmed in his first two seasons as a starter, and now he faces a bigger challenge. Among Pac-10 regulars, his 46.7 completion percentage was a league-low last year, but it was a major gain from the previous year. He admittedly hasn't been helped by receivers well below the Pac-10 standard, but there have been signs of improvement there, too. Maybe the Bears will even come up with a way to involve the tight end in the offense—if they find one—considering the position has been a Borges favorite in his other Pac-10 stops at Oregon and UCLA.

**Defensive philosophy:** Cal puts an emphasis on stopping the run, and last year that worked as the Bears held opposing rushers to 2.7 yards per carry. It left the secondary too often on its own, however, resulting in opponents getting 7.9 yards per pass attempt, the most allowed in the league and not a good number for a team that had to win with its defense. Cal can be a confounding defense to attack, if the front line is strong. That will be the key question this year after some major losses in the front four.

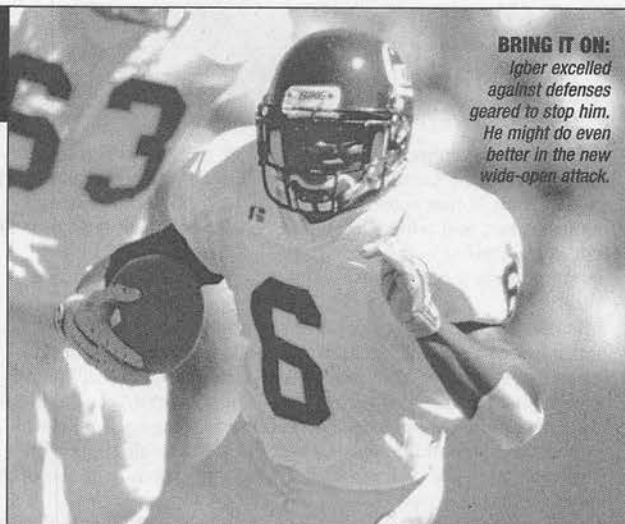
**Defensive stars:** Scott Fujita and Matt Nixon are standout linebackers, but they might not be as effective if the linemen in front of them aren't as dominating this year. The latest in a line of strong cornerbacks is junior Jemeel Powell, who led the Bears with four interceptions and had 16 pass breakups in 2000, though he didn't become a starter until the second half of the season. He might not get that many chances this season as teams keep the football away from him.

**Defensive concerns:** Tully Banta-Cain was effective at end with teams concentrating on Andre Carter on the other side and Jacob Waasdorp in the middle, but now Banta-Cain must prove he's good enough to be the leader of a line that last year led the Pac-10 in sacks. There's young talent in the secondary, but it must jell into a group that plays better than it did a year ago, when Cal was last in the league in pass defense.

**Special teams:** Powell averaged an amazing 18.2 yards on punt returns, ranking fifth in the country. Cal might have the most difficult assignment in the league in replacing P Nick Harris, who was valuable on a team that had a woeful offense and that relied on its defense and field position. The Bears do have K Mark Jensen back. He made 11 of 16 attempts and took the mystery out of extra points for the Bears. He missed only one, in stark contrast to his predecessors.

**Coaching staff:** For the first time in Tom Holmoe's five years as head coach, Cal has some balance in coordinators, with Borges the offensive equivalent of Lyle Setencich, the innovative schemer of the Cal defense for the past four seasons.

**Bottom line:** This will be the team that makes the biggest leap in the league. The offense should gain enough to make up for what the defense lost, and Cal will have a winning record—just enough to save Holmoe's job. —B.C.



**BRING IT ON:** Igber excelled against defenses geared to stop him. He might do even better in the new wide-open attack.

PAUL NISELY / TSN

## National Rank 70

**Coach:** Tom Holmoe (15-29, 5 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Al Borges (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Lyle Setencich (5th season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 7

**Lettermen lost:** 14

**Lettermen returning:** 54

**Site:** Berkeley, Calif.

**Stadium:** Memorial (grass, 75,028)

**Last league title won:** 1975

**Last bowl appearance:** 1996

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 77

**2000 record:** 3-8; Pac-10: 2-6/T8th

**Website:** www.calbears.com

### 2000 Results

Utah, W, 24-21  
at Illinois, L, 17-15  
at Fresno State, L, 17-3  
Washington State, L, 21-17  
at Arizona State, L, 30-10  
UCLA, W, 46-38 (OT)  
at Washington, L, 36-24  
at USC, W, 28-16  
Oregon State, L, 38-32  
at Oregon, L, 25-17  
Stanford, L, 36-30 (OT)

### Schedule

S1—Illinois  
S8—BYU  
S15—at Rutgers  
S22—at Washington State  
S29—Washington  
O13—Oregon  
O20—at UCLA  
O27—at Oregon State  
N3—Arizona  
N10—USC  
N17—at Stanford

## DEPTH CHART Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Derek Swafford	5-10	175	Jr.
	Charon Arnold	5-11	175	Sr.
T	<b>Langston Walker</b>	<b>6-8</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Derrick Joyce	6-5	270	Fr.*
G	Nolan Bluntzer	6-4	265	So.
	Chris Murphy	6-6	300	So.
C	<b>Brandon Ludwig</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Ryan Jones	6-4	270	Jr.
G	<b>Scott Tercero</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Derek Deutsch	6-3	280	So.
T	<b>Mark Wilson</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Nofoaalii Tuitama	6-7	285	Sr.
TE	Terrance Dotsy	6-4	280	Jr.
	Tom Swoboda	6-4	235	Jr.
WR	<b>Geoff McArthur</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Sean Currin	6-1	190	Sr.
QB	<b>Kyle Boller</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Eric Holtfreter	6-2	230	Sr.
RB	<b>Joe Igber</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Joseph Echema	5-11	215	Jr.
FB	Marcus Fields	6-2	220	Sr.
	Ryan Stanger	6-4	245	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Tully Banta-Cain</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Jamaal Cherry	6-4	260	Jr.
T	Daniel Nwangwu	6-4	290	Jr.
	Tom Sverchek	6-3	290	Fr.*
T	<b>Josh Beckham</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>So.</b>
	J.D. Cafaro	6-2	255	Fr.*
E	Tosh Lupoi	6-3	255	Fr.*
	L. Ladouceur	6-5	260	Fr.*
OLB	<b>Scott Fujita</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Calvin Hosey	6-4	235	Jr.
MLB	<b>John Klotsche</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	J.P. Segura	6-0	235	Sr.
OLB	<b>Matt Nixon</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Chris Ball	6-3	220	Sr.
CB	LaShaun Ward	6-1	195	Jr.
	James Bethea	5-11	190	So.
SS	<b>Bert Watts</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Dewey Hale	6-0	205	Sr.
FS	<b>Nnamdi Asomugha</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Jeremy Drake	6-0	210	So.
CB	<b>Jemeel Powell</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Atari Callen	5-9	190	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Mark Jensen</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>So.</b>
P	Tyler Fredrickson	6-3	180	Fr.*

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*



# 9 Washington State

**Offensive philosophy:** The Cougars spread the field with three or four receivers—though this year there might be a question about whether they have that many—then attack the best one-on-one matchup they can find, whether it's a quick throw to a receiver who can break a big play, or a long throw to a faster receiver, or an inside rush with the lone running back amid spread out linebackers. It puts great pressure on the defense but requires a quarterback who can make it go, which Washington State would seem to have in either junior Jason Gesser or sophomore Matt Kegel, who took over after Gesser's injury in 2000.

**Offensive stars:** The two quarterbacks, if vastly different in style, both proved effective last season. It may be that as unhappy as it's likely to make them, the best solution could be to rotate. Gesser is a scrambler, and Kegel is a drop-back passer in the style of his cousin, Ryan Leaf. Senior Nakoa McElrath showed potential to be the big-play receiver, and he'll be the primary receiver with ample opportunity to show his talent in this offense. Senior David Minnich, the ex-Marine, is always good for the tough yard or two, and looks to be faster than a year ago to offer an outside threat, too.

**Offensive concerns:** This offense requires good receivers, and beyond McElrath there are only question marks or newcomers, plus 6-6 basketball refugee Mike Bush. There's also the need to find an alternative to Minnich, and though the Cougars return a host of linemen, how much talent is there up front?

**Defensive philosophy:** The Cougars like to gamble and put a premium on speed in their linebackers in a 4-3 alignment. All the blitzing that the Cougars do puts pressure on opposing quarterbacks, but it taxes the WSU secondary, as well. The team that handles that pressure best usually wins, and, too often of late it has been the opponent.

**Defensive stars:** In senior safety Billy Newman, the Cougars have a sure tackler—his 100 tackles last year were the most for a Pac-10 defensive back—who also is excellent in pass coverage. This year he might again be playing alongside Lamont Thompson, seemingly one of the rising stars of the league a couple of years ago but absent last season with an injury. Also back from an injury middle is linebacker Curtis Holden, who must battle to regain a starting spot in a unit that includes potential all-leaguers James Price and Raonall Smith.

**Defensive concerns:** Yes, the Cougars could put on the field a player with starting experience at virtually every position, but that's off a unit that last year was ninth in the league against both the pass and the run, and 10th overall—WSU opponents averaged 32 points. The major problem is up front. Opposing runners averaged 4.3 yards per carry in 2000, and the Cougars couldn't get to opposing quarterbacks. That put too much strain on the back seven.

**Special teams:** Alan Cox should be better in his second season as the punter, and with their abundance of speed, the Cougars will again be solid in kick coverage and kick return units. The returners also offer explosive potential, in Collin Henderson and Curtis Nettles. The concern remains with the place kicking, however, and probably won't be solved until well into fall camp.

**Coaching staff:** Mike Price had a major shuffling of his assistants, and it's either a sign that people were concerned about their futures after three consecutive losing seasons, or it was time to shake things up. Mike Levenseller takes over as offensive coordinator after John McDonnell left to help coach the line at Stanford. Aaron Price, one of the coach's sons, was hired as quarterbacks coach to replace Eric Price, another son, who left for an NFL position. With both his responsibility for the quarterbacks and the additional assignment of kickers, Eric could be the Price who proves most important.

**Bottom line:** Since the 1997 team earned a berth in the Rose Bowl, the Cougars are 3-21 in the Pac-10 and 10-24 overall. They might be better this year, but a winning record would still seem to be a stretch. Without one Mike Price could be on the hot seat. —B.C.

**SPREADING IT AROUND:** The Cougars might best be served by using Gesser, a good scrambler, in a quarterback rotation.



WASHINGTON STATE

## National Rank

77

**Coach:** Mike Price (63-73, 12 years; 109-117 overall, 20 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Mike Levenseller (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Bill Doba (7th season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 7

**Lettermen lost:** 21

**Lettermen returning:** 52

**Site:** Pullman, Wash.

**Stadium:** Martin (turf, 37,600)

**Last league title won:** 1997

**Last bowl appearance:** 1997

**2000 record:** 4-7; Pac-10:

2-6/T8th

**Website:** www.wsucougars.com

## 2000 Results

Stanford, L, 24-10

at Utah, W, 38-21

Idaho, L, 38-34

at California, W, 21-17

Boise State, W, 42-35

at Arizona, L, 53-47 (3 OT)

Arizona State, L, 23-20 (OT)

at Oregon State, L, 38-9

Oregon, L, 27-24 (OT)

at USC, W, 33-27

Washington, L, 57-3

## Schedule

A30—Idaho

S8—at Boise State

S15—Colorado

S22—California

S29—at Arizona

O6—Oregon State

O13—at Stanford

O27—Oregon

N3—UCLA

N10—at Arizona State

N17—at Washington

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Nakoa McElrath	6-2	185	Sr.
	Scott Lunde	6-2	204	So.
T	Josh Parrish	6-6	284	So.
	Gerald Cook	6-6	243	Jr.
G	Joey Hollenbeck	6-4	281	Sr.
	Billy Knotts	6-7	275	So.
C	Tyler Hunt	6-4	280	Jr.
	Brian Hollenberg	6-3	278	Jr.
G	Derrick Roche	6-6	280	Jr.
	Billy Knotts	6-7	275	So.
T	Phil Locker	6-5	311	Jr.
	Billy Knotts	6-7	275	So.
TE	Russell Mizin	6-4	237	Jr.
	Mark Baldwin	6-6	235	Sr.
WR	Billy Chase	6-3	200	Jr.
	Mike Bush	6-6	195	Jr.
QB	Jason Gesser	6-1	200	So.
	Matt Kegel	6-5	225	So.
RB	Dave Minnich	6-0	215	Sr.
	Jeremy Thielbahr	6-2	238	Jr.
WR	Collin Henderson	6-1	191	Jr.
	Curtis Nettles	5-7	154	So.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Tupo Tuupo	6-3	263	Sr.
	Anthony Adedipe	6-4	250	Sr.
T	Rien Long	6-7	262	So.
	Jeremy Williams	6-4	260	So.
T	Tomasi Kongaika	6-1	285	Jr.
	Ing Aleaga	6-3	280	Jr.
E	Fred Shavies	6-1	245	Jr.
	Isaac Brown	6-3	221	So.
OLB	Champ Simmons	6-1	212	Jr.
	Serign Marong	6-2	231	Sr.
MLB	Curtis Holden	6-2	232	Sr.
	James Price	5-11	211	Sr.
OLB	Raonall Smith	6-2	243	Sr.
	Aaron Wagner	6-2	221	So.
CB	Marcus Trufant	6-0	183	Jr.
	Mike Freeman	5-10	172	Sr.
SS	Billy Newman	5-10	204	Sr.
	Ira Davis	6-0	202	So.
FS	Lamont Thompson	6-2	215	Sr.
	Josh Moen	6-2	195	Jr.
CB	Jason David	5-8	154	So.
	Virgil Williams	6-1	181	Jr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Drew Dunning	5-10	165	So.
P	Alan Cox	6-2	185	Sr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 10 Arizona

**Offensive strengths:** New coach John Mackovic's priority was livening up a dreary offense. Arizona will run a pro-style multiple offense, with plenty of shifts and movement. One or two backs will be used, with the fullback taking the ball more often via the pass or rush. The tight ends will see the ball more, too. But the transition will take time: Mackovic wasn't close to putting all of the offense in this spring, and his emphasis on the pass comes without a proven passer.

**Offensive stars:** Arizona has enough talent in the backfield to benefit from any openings the pass emphasis might create, especially if Leo Mills clears up academic problems that led to an indefinite suspension. If not, Clarence Farmer and Larry Croom will get most of the tailback snaps unless Farmer moves to fullback. Junior Bobby Wade was the standout receiver last year, and Andrae Thurmond showed some promise as a freshman. Coaches also are excited about the speed of incoming freshman Robert Spells. Talented guard Steven Grace is coming off a shoulder injury. But he likely will move to center while Reggie Sampay shifts to guard.

**Offensive concerns:** Mackovic has plenty of options at quarterback, seven in fact. But whether he has one good one is another story. Jason Johnson, who served as a distant backup to Ortege Jenkins last season, was the leading candidate in spring practice. But Cliff Watkins and Tennessee transfer John Rattay both have strong arms, and speedy JC transfer Erik Garcia was making a case. Incoming freshman Nic Costa is a hotshot, too.

**Defensive philosophy:** Mackovic didn't want to change a good thing—the double-eagle flex—but he didn't want to run it. Fortunately, he hired Larry Mac Duff, who helped create the defense at Arizona before moving to the New York Giants. The defense features an unusual front that has lineman focused on the gaps, confusing the offense and allowing the linebackers to move freely go after the ball. It was tailored to Arizona's smaller, athletic lineman, but it can work with bigger players.

**Defensive stars:** The double-eagle flex revolves around linebacker Lance Briggs, who took advantage of the openness to record 113 tackles last season. Arizona has Keoni Fraser and Anthony Thomas back at tackles. There's some talent in the defensive secondary, especially with Michael Jolivet—one of the nation's best freshman cornerbacks last season.

**Defensive concerns:** Arizona must replace two respected defensive ends, Joe Tafoya and Idris Haroon, and get a better pass rush going at the same time. That's not an easy task, though the Wildcats hope that Eli Wnek can revive the success he had at end two years ago before spending last season as a fullback.

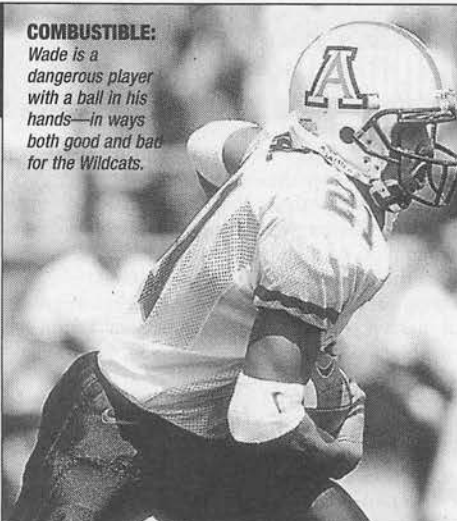
**Special teams:** Sean Keel's improvement as a kicker was a welcome relief for the scoring-challenged Wildcats. Punter Chris Palic needs to increase hangtime and length to allow better coverage. Punt returners Wade and Anthony Banks both were explosive at times and fumbling wrecks at others. Gary Love, Croom and Thurman will return kicks again. Arizona has its "kick-blocker" back, 6-8 Peter Hansen, but must find a long snapper with Nate Campbell gone.

**Coaching staff:** Mackovic has two jobs. He must win and fill seats. Mackovic has enough of a track record and television exposure that most fans probably have heard of him, but he doesn't have enough talent this season to attract too many new fans.

**Bottom line:** Dick Tomey was one of those coaches who was hard to fire. He was a good guy, his players graduated and the Wildcats were always just good enough. But when his 12-1 Holiday Bowl season in 1998 began to be regarded as a fluke, that was the end. Things might not be better under Mackovic, but they probably won't be worse. —B.P.

## COMBUSTIBLE:

Wade is a dangerous player with a ball in his hands—in ways both good and bad for the Wildcats.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

## National Rank 92

**Coach:** John Mackovic (1st year; 85-64-3 overall, 13 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Rick Dykes (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Larry MacDuff (11th season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple pro

**Defensive scheme:** Double eagle flex

**Starters lost:** 9

**Lettermen lost:** 12

**Lettermen returning:** 47

**Site:** Tucson, Ariz.

**Stadium:** Arizona (grass, 56,500)

**Last league title won:** 1993 (tie)

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 2000

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 64

**2000 record:** 5-6; Pac-10:

3-5/T5th

**Website:** www.arizcats.com

## 2000 Results

at Utah, W, 17-3

Ohio State, L, 27-17

San Diego State, W, 17-3

at Stanford, W, 27-3

at USC, W, 31-15

Washington State, W, 53-47

at Oregon, L, 14-10

UCLA, L, 27-24

at Washington, L, 35-32

Oregon State, L, 33-9

Arizona State, L, 30-17

## Schedule

S1—at San Diego State

S8—Idaho

S22—UNLV

S29—Washington State

O6—Oregon

O13—at Oregon State

O20—at Washington

O27—USC

N3—at California

N10—Stanford

N23—at Arizona State

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Malosi Leonard	6-2	212	Sr.
	Brandon Marshall	5-11	194	Sr.
T	Makoa Freitas	6-4	304	Jr.
	Aaron Higginbotham	6-5	270	Jr.
G	Reggie Sampay	6-3	276	So.
	Dusty Alexander	6-1	313	Sr.
C	Steven Grace	6-3	293	Sr.
	Keoki Fraser	6-2	318	Fr.*
G	Kevin Barry	6-5	330	Sr.
	John Vorsheck	6-4	300	Jr.
T	Darren Safranek	6-7	270	Jr.
	Brandon Phillips	6-7	278	So.
TE	James Hugo	6-6	271	Jr.
	Peter Hansen	6-8	238	Sr.
WR	Bobby Wade	5-11	187	Jr.
	Andrae Thurman	6-0	179	So.
QB	Jason Johnson	6-2	200	Jr.
	Cliff Watkins	6-4	212	So.
HB	Clarence Farmer	6-0	224	So.
	Larry Croom	5-10	209	Jr.
FB	Mike Detwiler	6-2	231	Sr.
	Anthony Fulcher	5-11	200	So.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Alex Luna	6-0	230	Sr.
	Austin Uku	6-1	234	Sr.
NT	Keoni Fraser	6-1	282	Sr.
	Young Thompson	6-2	298	Jr.
T	Anthony Thomas	6-2	290	Sr.
	Ben Alualu	6-1	275	Jr.
E	Eli Wnek	6-3	246	Sr.
	Johnny Jackson	6-3	256	Sr.
OLB	Shelton Ross	6-0	222	Sr.
	Ray Wells	6-0	214	Jr.
MLB	Lance Briggs	6-1	230	Jr.
	Patrick Howard	6-0	230	Fr.*
OLB	Joe Siofele	6-1	240	So.
	Matt Molina	6-2	220	So.
CB	Michael Jolivet	5-9	175	So.
	Anthony Banks	6-0	165	Sr.
SS	Brandon Nash	6-1	215	Sr.
	Zaharius Johnson	6-0	194	Sr.
FS	Jarvie Worcester	6-0	195	Jr.
	Clay Hardt	6-1	192	So.
CB	Jermaine Chatman	5-11	177	Sr.
	David Hinton	5-11	170	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Sean Keel	6-0	200	Jr.
P	Chris Palic	6-3	206	Sr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# Big Ten

The conference race is wide open, but chances for a national title are slight

By TOM DIENHART

**T**he Big Ten is suffering from a power shortage that most Californians can sympathize with.

The league hasn't produced a consensus national champion since Ohio State in 1968. Since then, Michigan's share of the 1997 crown is the Big Ten's only title bauble.

Prospects for a title this season are slim. In fact, this looks like the most wide-open race in years. Northwestern is the front-runner. Northwestern! The Wildcats' offense is loaded with skill in RB Damien Anderson and QB Zak Kustok. All five linemen are back, and there is plenty of proven talent at receiver. The defense is a good news/bad news deal—lots of talent is back from a unit that got ripped last season.

The teams on Northwestern's heels—Michigan, Purdue, Wisconsin, Ohio State and Michigan State—have too many holes to wish for anything more than a spot in the final polls.

The recent slides of Ohio State and Penn State are at the root of the Big Ten's slump. The Buckeyes are an aggregate 14-10 the past two seasons, and Penn State is 15-10. Those would be good records for some schools, but not two traditional powers. Further muddling the conference's quest for national power are what appear to be retooling jobs at Michigan and Wisconsin.

At the root of any successful conference is good quarterback play, which it appears the Big Ten will lack. Michigan's Drew Henson has left a year early to play baseball, Indiana plans to play Antwan Randle El at receiver most of the time, and Purdue's Drew Brees and Penn State's Rashard Casey ran out of eligibility.

That leaves Kustok and Illinois' Kurt Kittner as the veterans at the position. Wisconsin (Brooks Bollinger and Jim Sorgi), Minnesota (Travis Cole and Asad Abdul-Khalik), Iowa (Kyle McCann and Jon Beutjer) and Michigan State (Jeff Smoker and Ryan Van Dyke) have promising situations, but only Smoker looks to be a potential star. Michigan, Purdue, Ohio State, Penn State and Indiana all lack proven commodities.

**Ascending:** Ohio State. After 13 years under John Cooper, the Buckeyes are headed in a new direction under coach Jim Tressel, who arrives after 15 seasons as coach at I-AA Youngstown State. Tressel is a no-nonsense type who will instill needed discipline. There's enough talent on hand to improve on last year's 8-4 season, which ended with a dispiriting loss in the Outback Bowl to South Carolina.



**LADELL WHO?**  
Betts is one of the best backs no one has heard of.

DULIP VISHWANATH / TSN

BIG TEN

**Descending:** Minnesota. The offense should be good, but the karma may be bad. First, how loyal can the players be to coach Glen Mason, who openly campaigned for the Ohio State job? It was the second time in two years he had done so. And what's to be made of the six assistant coaching changes that took place? Gophers spin doctors say the coaches left for better posts, but you get the feeling they didn't think the future was bright. This is a program coming off consecutive bowls for the first time since 1985-86.

**Dream schedule:** Northwestern. Trips to UNLV, Ohio State, Purdue and Illinois could be hazardous, but there's hope for victory at each stop. The best part of the slate is what's missing: Wisconsin and Michigan. A perfect home record is achievable with Navy, Michigan State, Minnesota, Penn State and Iowa coming to town. The other road games are at Duke and Indiana. Enough said.

**Nightmare schedule:** Penn State. Trying to rebound from the school's first losing mark (5-7) since 1988, the Nittany Lions open at home against Miami (Fla.). A trip to always-frisky Virginia is next. The hit parade continues with visits from Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio State and Southern Miss. If that doesn't

fog up Joe Paterno's glasses, trips to Northwestern, Illinois and Michigan State might.

**Best matchup:** Michigan at Washington on September 8. Both are sorting out their rosters following key personnel losses, but tradition and pride abound. The victor will leave the contest confident and poised to prove wrong those who forecast a down season.

**Ugliest matchup:** Western Kentucky at Wisconsin on September 15. Division I-AA opponents and the Badgers don't mix. It's sort of like a game of chicken between a unicorn and a semi. But after opening against Virginia, Oregon and Fresno State, and with a trip to Penn State on deck, Wisconsin will need a glorified scrimmage.

**Upset of the year:** Iowa will beat Michigan on October 27 in Iowa City. The stakes won't be as high as in the teams' epic 1985 battle in which Iowa knocked off Michigan, 12-10, on a last-second field goal. But the Hawkeyes should be full of confidence coming off a likely home win against Indiana. If that isn't enough, the sight of the winged helmets should fire Iowa up.

**Bowl bound:** Northwestern, Michigan, Purdue, Wisconsin, Ohio State and Michigan



State look good. Penn State, Minnesota and Illinois have outside shots at minor bowls. The Nittany Lions never have missed the postseason in consecutive seasons under Paterno, who is entering his 36th campaign in Happy Valley.

**Biggest shoes to fill:** Purdue QB Drew Brees'. He was a two-time Heisman finalist, led Purdue to three consecutive bowls and holds or shares 19 school marks, 13 Big Ten records and two NCAA standards. He also walked on water: Feeling the pressure yet, redshirt freshman Brandon Hance?

**Most overrated player:** Purdue TE Tim Stratton. Yes, the senior has 145 career receptions—and yes, we've got him on our all-league first team—but he's prone to disappear in big games. He grabbed 58 passes last year, but just two went for touchdowns. One came in the opener against Central Michigan and the other in the regular-season finale against Indiana. Impressive, eh? Plus, he's an iffy blocker.

**Most underrated player:** Iowa RB Ladell Betts. The senior has worked behind one of the shakiest lines in the Big Ten the last few years. And let's just say teams haven't been quaking in their boots at the thought of facing any recent Hawkeye quarterbacks. Despite that, Betts has been productive. He ran for 1,090 yards last year, and with an improving situation around him, things could be better this season.

**Best coach:** Purdue's Joe Tiller. Guiding the Boilermakers to their first Rose Bowl since the 1966 season was an amazing feat. And it took him just four years to do it. Tiller has a knack for putting his personnel in the best position to maximize talent. He also makes the game fun. To top it all off, he knows how to build a staff. During his Purdue tenure, he has seen three assistants leave for NFL jobs and another take a better college post. But the beat has gone on.

**Best staff:** Penn State. The defense may have missed Jerry Sandusky, who retired in 1999 as coordinator after 32 seasons in State College. But Paterno scored a coup when he tabbed former Maryland coach Ron Vanderlinden to coach linebackers. Vanderlinden built Northwestern's defenses during its Rose and Citrus Bowl runs. Veteran hands such as offensive line coach Dick Anderson, defensive coordinator Tom Bradley, offensive coordinator Fran Ganter

and offensive tackles/tight ends coach Bill Kenney make this a good group.

**Coach on the hot seat:** Indiana's Cam Cameron. He will always be measured against the three other coaches—Purdue's Tiller, Minnesota's Mason and Illinois' Ron Turner—who joined the league when he did in 1997. Each has gone to at least one bowl. Cameron has yet to post a winning record, going 13-31 in four years. Worst yet, attendance is down, and in-state rival Purdue has gone to four straight bowls.

**Best bets:** Illinois' Kittner, and not Northwestern's Anderson, will garner the most Heisman votes among Big Ten players. ... No Big Ten team will finish the season in the top 10 of any poll. ... After finishing the season in a 2-for-20 slump, New York Yankees farm hand Drew Henson will long for the fall colors and roar of the Michigan Stadium crowd. ... Indiana's Randle El will spend most of his time at quarterback after opening the season primarily as a receiver. He's too valuable for the Hoosiers to take the ball out of his hands on every play. ... Northwestern's Anderson and Michigan State's T.J. Duckett will battle all season for the rushing title, which will be decided in the last game. Speaking of backs, no league has a better collection than the Big Ten. In addition to Anderson and Duckett, there's Iowa's Betts, Minnesota's Tellis Redmon, Illinois' Rocky Harvey, Purdue's Montrell Lowe, Indiana's Levron Williams, Ohio State's Jonathan Wells and Penn State's Eric McCoo, among others.

**Odds and ends:** Paterno needs two wins to pass Bear Bryant as the all-time winningest Division I-A coach with 324 victories. But it may be deep into the season before Penn State gets two wins, considering its first nine games: Miami, at Virginia, Wisconsin, at Iowa, Michigan, at Northwestern, Ohio State, Southern Miss and at Illinois. ... Purdue is beginning a multimillion-dollar renovation of Ross-Ade Stadium that will widen concourses, improve restrooms, overhaul the press box and add premium seating. A brick facade also will be added. ... After the season, Wisconsin will begin a three-year, \$100 million overhaul of Camp Randall Stadium. Areas including luxury boxes and a widened concourse will be addressed. The south end zone also will be enclosed.

## ALL-LEAGUE

### FIRST TEAM

### Offense

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Ron Johnson, Minnesota	6-3	216	Sr.
WR	Marquise Walker, Michigan	6-3	212	Sr.
TE	Tim Stratton, Purdue	6-4	258	Sr.
T	Leon Brockmeier, Northwestern	6-7	302	Sr.
T	Ben Johnson, Wisconsin	6-7	319	Jr.
G	Jeff Roehl, Northwestern	6-4	299	Jr.
G	Jonathan Goodwin, Michigan	6-4	294	Sr.
C	LeCharles Bentley, Ohio State	6-2	290	Sr.
QB	Kurt Kittner, Illinois	6-3	210	Sr.
RB	Damien Anderson, Northwestern	5-11	204	Sr.
RB	T.J. Duckett, Michigan State	6-2	252	Jr.

### Defense

E	Akin Ayodele, Purdue	6-3	253	Sr.
E	Aaron Kampman, Iowa	6-4	282	Sr.
T	Wendell Bryant, Wisconsin	6-4	293	Sr.
T	Matt Mittrione, Purdue	6-3	281	Sr.
LB	Nick Greisen, Wisconsin	6-2	234	Sr.
LB	Josh Thornhill, Michigan State	6-2	234	Sr.
LB	Joe Cooper, Ohio State	6-0	225	Sr.
CB	Mike Echols, Wisconsin	5-10	171	Sr.
CB	Cedric Henry, Michigan State	5-10	180	Sr.
S	Mike Doss, Ohio State	5-11	197	Jr.
S	Stuart Schweigert, Purdue	6-3	202	So.

### Specialists

K	Dan Nystrom, Minnesota	5-11	205	Jr.
P	Preston Gruening, Minnesota	5-10	204	Jr.
KR	Nick Davis, Wisconsin	5-10	183	Sr.

### Players of the year

**Offense:** Damien Anderson, RB, Northwestern

**Defense:** Mike Doss, SS, Ohio State

### SECOND TEAM

### Offense

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Kahlil Hill, Iowa	6-3	195	Sr.
WR	John Standeford, Purdue	6-4	187	So.
TE	Chris Baker, Michigan State	6-3	265	Sr.
T	Adrien Clarke, Ohio State	6-4	325	So.
T	Enoch DeMar, Indiana	6-4	313	Jr.
G	Bruce Nelson, Iowa	6-4	290	Jr.
G	Gus Felder, Penn State	6-5	316	Sr.
C	Luke Butkus, Illinois	6-4	290	Sr.
QB	Zak Kustok, Northwestern	6-1	200	Sr.
RB	Tellis Redmon, Minnesota	6-0	192	Jr.
RB	Ladell Betts, Iowa	5-11	215	Sr.

### Defense

E	Greg White, Minnesota	6-2	265	Sr.
E	Shaun Phillips, Purdue	6-3	252	So.
T	Jimmy Kennedy, Penn State	6-5	330	Jr.
T	Josh Shaw, Michigan State	6-3	281	Sr.
LB	Matt Wilhelm, Ohio State	6-4	245	Jr.
LB	Napoleon Harris, Northwestern	6-3	243	Sr.
LB	Larry Foote, Michigan	6-1	228	Sr.
CB	Eugene Wilson, Illinois	6-0	183	Jr.
CB	Todd Howard, Michigan	5-10	183	Sr.
S	Cato June, Michigan	6-1	213	Jr.
S	Ralph Turner, Purdue	6-2	210	Jr.

### Specialists

K	Hayden Epstein, Michigan	6-2	205	Sr.
P	Hayden Epstein, Michigan	6-2	205	Sr.
KR	Kahlil Hill, Iowa	6-3	195	Sr.

### Newcomers of the year

**Offense:** Brandon Hance, QB, Purdue

**Defense:** Dominique Sims, FS, Minnesota

## UNIT RANKINGS

	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall		
ILLINOIS	3	9	4	3	10	10	2	8	5	7
INDIANA	10	10	8	11	8	8	10	10	11	10
IOWA	4	7	11	9	6	9	9	9	3	8
MICHIGAN	9	5	5	7	1	2	3	1	1	3
MICHIGAN STATE	2	2	10	6	9	5	6	7	7	11
MINNESOTA	7	1	6	2	11	11	11	11	2	6
NORTHWESTERN	1	4	1	1	7	3	8	6	10	5
OHIO STATE	11	6	2	8	4	1	1	2	4	9
PENN STATE	8	11	7	10	3	4	7	4	8	4
PURDUE	5	3	9	4	2	6	4	3	9	1
WISCONSIN	6	8	3	5	5	7	5	5	6	2



## PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

### Offense **Damien Anderson, RB, Northwestern**

After finishing fifth in last year's Heisman Trophy race, Damien Anderson sat down with his father and discussed whether to turn pro a year early. Anderson was told by NFL insiders that he could be drafted anywhere from late in the first round to somewhere in the third. That uncertainty, coupled with a feeling that he and his teammates have unfinished business, caused Anderson to decide to return. That



makes Anderson, the nation's leading returning rusher who needs just 65 yards to become the school's all-time leading ground gainer, a Heisman favorite before the first snap this fall, as he's the only one of the top five finishers from last season who is back. It helps that nine other starters from Northwestern's high-powered offense, including all five starting linemen, are back.

Like last year, the defense is suspect. But it has a chance to be better, which would help Northwestern's chance at the Big Ten title and Anderson's shot at the Heisman. The Wildcats tied Purdue

and Michigan for the Big Ten title last season, giving Northwestern at least a share of three of the last six conference titles.

Coming off a season (including the bowl game) in which he rushed for 2,063 yards and 23 touchdowns, Anderson hasn't looked back. His 1,549 yards rushing in conference games set a Big Ten mark. He's a leader in the weight room and is the best-conditioned athlete on the team. His work ethic is as good as that of any player in the nation. In a lot of ways, he's approaching his final season the way Purdue's Drew Brees did.

Other players who could challenge Anderson for top offensive honors in the Big Ten are Indiana QB/WR Antwaan Randle El, Michigan State RB T.J. Duckett, Minnesota WR Ron Johnson, Illinois QB Kurt Kittner and Purdue TE Tim Stratton. —Mark Craig

### Defense **Mike Doss, SS, Ohio State**

He isn't a household name outside of Ohio, but Mike Doss is pound-for-pound the hardest hitter in the Big Ten. In fact, his soft-spoken ways and laid-back demeanor off the field are stark contrasts to his ferocity on the field.

Doss led the Buckeyes in tackles last season with 94, including 73 solo stops, 13 for losses and three sacks. His goal-line hit on Illinois quarterback Kurt Kittner, although borderline excessive due to the helmet-to-helmet contact, displayed all of Doss' strengths: speed, instincts, power and toughness. It also knocked Kittner out of the last week and a half of the season with a concussion.

Doss is one of the best defensive play-makers in college football. With cornerback Jamar Fletcher, last year's conference defensive player of the year, leaving Wisconsin a year early, Doss is the most dangerous defender in the Big Ten when it comes to producing turnovers. Last season, he had three interceptions, recovered three fumbles, forced a fumble, broke up six passes and scored twice off turnovers.

Doss and his defensive teammates figure to be on the field in several difficult situations because Ohio State's offense probably won't be able to control the football or score many points. It's vital that Doss and the defense play as well as they did most of last season. It won't be easy, considering both starting cornerbacks are gone, including Nate Clements. But Doss can count on plenty of help from what looks like a strong linebacking corps led by Joe Cooper and Matt Wilhelm.

At least two Wisconsin players could challenge Doss for top defensive honors in the conference: T Wendell Bryant, a two-time All-Big Ten first-team selection, and CB Mike Echols, who is looking to emerge from Fletcher's shadow. Others to watch include Purdue E Akin Ayodele, Michigan LB Larry Foote and Michigan State LB Josh Thornhill. —M.C.



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

## 2000 INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### RUSHING *returning players in bold*

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Damien Anderson, Northwestern, Jr.	11	293	1,914	6.5	22	174.0
2. Michael Bennett, Wisconsin, Jr.	10	294	1,598	5.4	10	159.8
3. Anthony Thomas, Michigan, Sr.	11	287	1,551	5.4	16	141.0
4. T.J. Duckett, Michigan State, So.	11	240	1,353	5.6	7	123.0
5. Antwaan Randle El, Indiana, Jr.	11	218	1,270	5.8	13	115.5
6. Tellis Redmon, Minnesota, So.	11	251	1,122	4.5	6	102.0
7. Ladell Betts, Iowa, Jr.	12	233	1,090	4.7	5	90.8
8. Montrell Lowe, Purdue, So.	11	206	919	4.5	6	83.6
9. Derek Combs, Ohio State, Sr.	10	167	863	5.2	5	86.3
10. Levron Williams, Indiana, Sr.	10	116	821	7.1	10	82.1

### PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Rating
1. Drew Brees, Purdue, Sr.	11	473	286	.605	12	3,393	7.2	24	132.4
2. Zak Kustok, Northwestern, Jr.	11	328	191	.582	7	2,251	6.9	18	129.7
3. Steve Bellisari, Ohio State, Jr.	11	285	149	.523	12	2,162	7.6	13	122.6
4. Rashard Casey, Penn State, Sr.	12	309	163	.528	8	2,001	6.5	14	116.9
5. Kurt Kittner, Illinois, Jr.	10	297	173	.583	8	1,982	6.7	18	128.9
6. Drew Henson, Michigan, Jr.	8	217	131	.604	4	1,852	8.5	16	152.7
7. Antwaan Randle El, Indiana, Jr.	11	277	133	.480	14	1,783	6.4	10	103.9
8. Travis Cole, Minnesota, Jr.	9	223	131	.587	5	1,780	8.0	11	137.6
9. Jeff Smoker, Michigan State, Fr.	10	197	103	.523	7	1,365	6.9	6	113.4
10. Brooks Bollinger, Wisconsin, So.	11	192	101	.526	7	1,363	7.1	8	118.7

### RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Ron Johnson, Minnesota, Jr.	11	59	1,067	11	5.4	18.1
2. Kevin Kasper, Iowa, Sr.	12	82	1,010	7	6.8	12.3
3. David Terrell, Michigan, Jr.	11	63	994	13	5.7	15.8
4. Vinny Sutherland, Purdue, Sr.	10	65	926	11	6.5	14.3
5. Ken-Yon Rambo, Ohio State, Sr.	11	51	729	2	4.6	14.3
6. John Standeford, Purdue, Fr.	10	62	677	6	6.2	10.9
7. Kahil Hill, Iowa, Jr.	12	58	619	5	4.8	10.7
8. Marquise Walker, Michigan, Jr.	11	45	599	4	4.1	13.3
9. Tim Stratton, Purdue, Jr.	11	56	579	2	5.1	10.3
10. Versie Gaddis, Indiana, Sr.	10	29	554	3	2.9	19.1

## TEAM STATISTICS

### OFFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Indiana (7)	266.4	1. Purdue (6)	312.5	1. Northwestern (3)	475.6
2. Northwestern (8)	257.3	2. Minnesota (36)	234.9	2. Purdue (4)	471.2
3. Michigan (14)	220.2	3. Michigan (45)	225.3	3. Michigan (11)	445.5
4. Wisconsin (21)	198.4	4. Northwestern (51)	218.4	4. Indiana (13)	439.1
5. Minnesota (27)	187.6	5. Illinois (52)	217.2	5. Minnesota (22)	422.5
6. Michigan State (31)	170.4	6. Iowa (55)	215.0	6. Illinois (51)	379.9
7. Illinois (39)	162.7	7. Ohio State (65)	208.4	7. Ohio State (59)	370.3
8. Ohio State (41)	161.9	8. Michigan State (73)	196.5	8. Michigan State (61)	366.8
9. Purdue (45)	158.6	9. Penn State (84)	183.9	9. Wisconsin (62)	363.2
10. Penn State (62)	142.3	10. Indiana (90)	172.7	10. Penn State (84)	325.7
11. Iowa (105)	90.8	11. Wisconsin (93)	164.8	11. Iowa (102)	305.8

### DEFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Ohio State (9)	91.6	1. Michigan State (7)	164.1	1. Michigan State (22)	318.3
2. Purdue (46)	139.1	2. Illinois (14)	179.9	2. Ohio State (23)	319.4
3. Michigan (62)	152.1	3. Minnesota (25)	193.4	3. Purdue (37)	340.5
4. Wisconsin (63)	153.7	4. Purdue (33)	201.4	4. Penn State (55)	363.8
5. Michigan State (65)	154.2	5. Penn State (49)	208.2	5. Minnesota (56)	364.6
6. Penn State (66)	155.6	6. Ohio State (82)	227.7	6. Michigan (74)	381.2
7. Minnesota (76)	171.3	7. Northwestern (83)	228.0	7. Wisconsin (79)	391.8
8. Northwestern (82)	180.1	8. Michigan (86)	229.1	8. Northwestern (89)	408.1
9. Indiana (90)	186.4	9. Wisconsin (94)	238.1	9. Illinois (93)	412.5
10. Iowa (94)	194.3	10. Iowa (103)	246.7	10. Iowa (108)	440.9
11. Illinois (113)	232.5	11. Indiana (11)	270.9	11. Indiana (112)	457.3

Statistics do not include bowl games



# 1 Northwestern

National Rank  
**13**

**Coach:** Randy Walker (11-12, 2 years; 70-47-5 overall, 11 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Kevin Wilson (3rd season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Jerry Brown (5th season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple I

**Defensive scheme:** Multiple 4-3

**Starters lost:** 6

**Lettermen lost:** 10

**Lettermen returning:** 45

**Site:** Evanston, Ill.

**Stadium:** Ryan Field (grass, 47,130)

**Last league title won:**

2000 (tie)

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1999

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 94

**2000 record:** 8-4 (lost to

Nebraska in Alamo Bowl); Big

Ten: 6-2/T1st

**Website:** www.nusports.com

## 2000 Results

Northern Illinois, W, 35-17

Duke, W, 38-5

at TCU, L, 41-14

at Wisconsin, W, 47-44

at Michigan State, W, 37-17

Indiana, W, 52-33

Purdue, L, 41-28

at Minnesota, W, 41-35

Michigan, W, 54-51

at Iowa, L, 27-17

Illinois, W, 61-23

Nebraska, L, 66-17

## Schedule

S7—at UNLV

S15—Navy

S22—at Duke

S29—Michigan State

O6—at Ohio State

O13—Minnesota

O20—Penn State

O27—at Purdue

N3—at Indiana

N10—Iowa

N22—at Illinois

## Game of the year

**Oct. 27—at Purdue**

The Wildcats, who have the best offense in the Big Ten, meet what could be the finest defense in the conference. Northwestern could be 7-0 at that point if it survives Ohio State and Penn State. Purdue handled Northwestern's spread offense last year better than anyone other than Nebraska. When you run it, you can defend it.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The offense has a chance to be one of the best in college football. The question will be if the defense has improved.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★★★

**Receivers:** ★★★

**Offensive line:** ★★★★★

**Defensive line:** ★★

**Linebackers:** ★★★

**Secondary:** ★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

Offense					
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	
WR	Sam Simmons	5-10	201	Sr.	
	Kunle Patrick	6-0	204	So.	
T	Mike Souza	6-6	294	Sr.	
	Ike Ndukwe	6-6	333	Fr.	
G	Jeff Roehl	6-4	299	Jr.	
	Adam Fay	6-4	313	Sr.	
C	Austin King	6-4	281	Jr.	
	Carl Matejka	6-4	295	So.	
G	Lance Clelland	6-6	317	Sr.	
	Matt Ulrich	6-2	292	Fr.	
T	Leon Brockmeier	6-7	302	Sr.	
	Derek Martinez	6-5	292	So.	
TE	David Farman	6-5	253	Jr.	
	Eric Worley	6-4	247	So.	
WR	Jon Schweighardt	5-11	189	Jr.	
	Roger Jordan	6-3	202	So.	
QB	Zak Kustok	6-1	200	Sr.	
	Matt Danielson	6-0	222	So.	
RB	Damien Anderson	5-11	204	Sr.	
	Kevin Lawrence	5-11	200	Jr.	
FB	Vincent Cartaya	6-3	233	Jr.	
	Gilles Lezi	6-0	229	So.	

Defense					
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	
E	Pete Konopka	6-4	252	Sr.	
	Ben Kennedy	6-6	265	So.	
T	Pete Chapman	6-4	294	Jr.	
	Colby Clark	6-2	272	Fr.	
T	Salem Simon	6-4	270	Sr.	
	Matt Anderson	6-3	281	So.	
E	Onaje Grimes	6-2	247	Jr.	
	Ray Bogenrief	6-3	260	So.	
OLB	Napoleon Harris	6-3	243	Sr.	
	Syga Thomas	6-0	208	So.	
MLB	Billy Silva	6-3	248	Jr.	
	Ryan Peterson	6-2	211	So.	
OLB	Kevin Bentley	6-1	233	Sr.	
	Pat Durr	6-1	228	Jr.	
CB	Chasda Martin	5-11	194	Jr.	
	Brandon Evans	5-11	182	So.	
SS	Rashidi Wheeler	6-0	212	Sr.	
	Marvin Brown	5-11	200	Sr.	
FS	Sean Wieber	6-1	207	Jr.	
	Jarvis Adams	5-10	196	Fr.	
CB	Raheem Covington	5-9	182	Jr.	
	Marvin Ward	5-11	196	Fr.	

## Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Brian Huffman	6-1	202	So.
P	J.J. Standring	6-1	212	Sr.

*Returning starters in bold*

*\* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** No unit in the Big Ten has been picked apart and studied by the opposition more than the Wildcats' offense. Coach Randy Walker and coordinator Kevin Wilson know that, which is why they've spent the offseason tweaking and tuning the no-huddle spread attack that overwhelmed defenses in its debut last year. Walker and Wilson certainly have the firepower to expand the offense that led the conference in scoring average (38.5), yards per game (475.6) and sleepless nights by opposing defensive coordinators. Ten starters return, including Heisman Trophy candidate Damien Anderson at tailback, QB Zak Kustok and five experienced linemen who have combined for 97 starts in their careers. Expect Anderson, who ranked second in the nation in rushing average (174 yards), and TE David Farman to take on bigger roles in the passing game. Although Northwestern racked up big numbers last season, its offense was very much a run-oriented attack. Anderson ran for 1,914 yards and 22 touchdowns in the regular season, but he accounted for only 120 yards receiving and no touchdowns on 15 catches. He can, and will, do better than that this season. With Anderson and Kustok, the possibilities for this offense are extraordinary. Wilson says the Wildcats didn't even have that firm a grasp on the offense last year. According to him, Northwestern is still in the second or third chapter of its playbook. Looks like more sleepless nights for Big Ten defensive coordinators.

**Offensive stars:** Anderson finished fifth in the

Heisman Trophy balloting and is the only one of the five who is back. Kustok can hurt teams on the ground and in the air, having thrown for 2,251 yards and 18 touchdowns and rushed for 450 and nine scores. He should be even better, considering it was revealed after last season that he had played several games with an injured throwing arm. The players who didn't get

enough credit last season but will command it this year are the linemen. Three of them are fifth-year seniors. Two are juniors. Believe it or not, as dominating as Northwestern's offense was last year, not one of them made first-team All-Big Ten. That will change. The left side has two huge fifth-year seniors in T Leon Brockmeier and G Lance Clelland. T Mike Souza, also a fifth-year senior, has 27 career starts. Austin King is one of several outstanding centers in the Big Ten this season. G Jeff Roehl is vastly underrated and may end up being the best of the lot.

**Offensive concerns:** There aren't any, other than making sure the offense stays ahead of the opposing defensive coaches who are paid to figure out ways to stop it. One issue for the team is how it will replace WR Teddy Johnson. But Northwestern has a deep receiving corps and will play up to seven wideouts per game. Jovan Witherspoon, a transfer from Notre Dame, is a big target who could emerge. There's also Sam Simmons, who may have the most play-making ability of any of the wideouts.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Wildcats' 4-3 defense gambled too much and gave up the big play much too often last year, which is a big reason the unit allowed the second-most points in the Big Ten. The defense compensated with a plus-13 turnover margin that led the Big Ten. Still, a lack of depth and maturity on the unit culminated in a 66-17 loss to Nebraska in the Alamo Bowl in which the Cornhuskers ran for 519 yards and gained 636 overall. Six starters return, but the Wildcats are still young under coordinator Jerry Brown. He'll keep the schemes the same but insist that everyone follow their assignments and not race into someone else's area of responsibility. The linebackers are good, active, sound tacklers. They'll be counted on to turn Brown's defense into a respectable unit. It can be done, but considering the strain that the offense places on the defense by forcing it back on the field after quick scoring strikes, staying healthy and

## TSNumber

**33.4**

The average points allowed by the team last season. When last we saw the Wildcats,

Nebraska was rolling over them in a 66-17 win in the Alamo Bowl. The Cornhuskers finished with 519 yards rushing and 636 overall. The Northwestern offense will be good with QB Zak Kustok and RB Damien Anderson, but it won't be good enough to overcome numbers like that.



maintaining depth are musts.

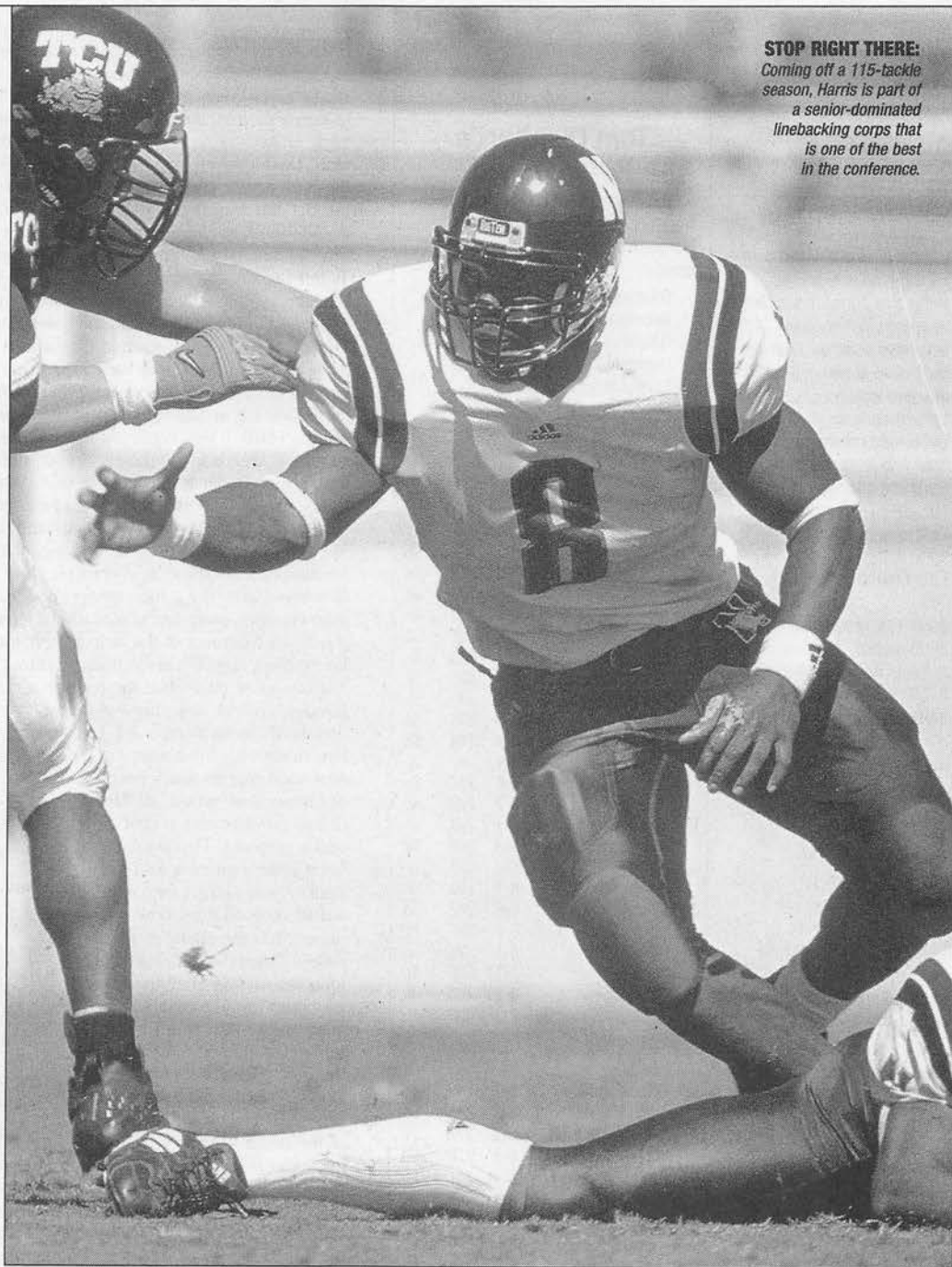
**Defensive stars:** The linebackers are senior-dominated and among the best in the Big Ten. And that's saying a lot, because the league has some outstanding players there this season. OLB Napoleon Harris is coming off a 115-tackle season. Billy Silva, one of five Big Ten players to average double-figure tackles last season, returns at middle linebacker. At the other outside linebacker position, the Wildcats enjoy some of that newfound depth they didn't have at this time last season. Kevin Bentley is a proven Big Ten standout. Because of injuries last year, he shared the position with Pat Durr, a good athlete who surprised a lot of people and will push for more starts this season.

**Defensive concerns:** Unlike with the offense, there are many. The two most glaring are the holes left by departed E Dwayne Missouri and CB Harold Blackmon that could have a big effect on the pass defense. Missouri and Blackmon were two of the best players in the conference at their positions. Missouri ranked second in the Big Ten with nine sacks, paced the league with five forced fumbles and had 16 tackles for losses. Blackmon was an exceptional cover man who deserved first-team All-Big Ten honors after ranking second in the conference with 16 pass breakups and making five interceptions. Raheem Covington could step up as Blackmon's replacement, but he's smallish. Redshirt freshman Marvin Ward is bigger and might be ready to start despite entering only his third year of football. The prospects at Missouri's old position are equally questionable. In fact, both ends are trouble areas, considering the Wildcats also lost Conrad Emmerich. Pete Konopka isn't flashy but might turn out to be solid. Northwestern may need more than that after ranking eighth in the Big Ten against the run (180-yard average).

**Special teams:** P J.J. Standring is back after a good season. K Tim Long is gone, but the Wildcats have two interesting prospects in sophomore Brian Huffman and Florida transfer Dave Wasielewski. Huffman was the best high school kicker in Illinois two years ago. Wasielewski made the SEC's first-team all-freshman squad. Simmons is one of the most dangerous punt returners in the conference and returns kicks. Jason Wright, a redshirt freshman, also might step forward in the return game.

**Coaching staff:** Walker is one of the best young coaches in the

**STOP RIGHT THERE:**  
Coming off a 115-tackle season, Harris is part of a senior-dominated linebacking corps that is one of the best in the conference.



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

country and appears committed to Northwestern. A former Miami (Ohio) coach, he could have made a run at the Ohio State opening when John Cooper departed and probably would have gotten the job, but he pulled out of the race early enough to preserve his recruiting class. Walker's staff returns intact except for offensive line coach Aaron Kromer, who was hired by the Oakland Raiders. Given the Wildcats' abundance of experience on the offensive line, Kromer's departure shouldn't hurt the team this season.

**Bottom line:** If the defense can hold on for dear life and not wilt under the tremendous pressure the offense puts on it, the Wildcats will win the Big Ten. They have won at least a share of three of the last six titles. Only Michigan can make the same claim. The Wildcats don't play Michigan this season. Not having to travel to Ann Arbor for a rematch of last year's 54-51 Wildcats win in Evanston obviously helps Northwestern's chances. Selecting a preseason favorite with so many question marks on defense shows there's no dominant Big Ten team this season.



# 2 Michigan

**National Rank**  
**17**

**Coach:** Lloyd Carr (58-16, 6 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Stan Parrish (2nd season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Jim Herrmann (5th season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** Situational  
**Starters lost:** 9  
**Lettermen lost:** 18  
**Lettermen returning:** 55  
**Site:** Ann Arbor, Mich.  
**Stadium:** Michigan (grass, 107,501)  
**Last league title won:** 2000 (tie)  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1990  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 12  
**2000 record:** 9-3 (beat Auburn in Citrus Bowl); Big Ten: 6-2/T1st  
**Website:** www.mgoblue.com

## 2000 Results

Bowling Green, W, 42-7  
Rice, W, 42-7  
at UCLA, L, 23-20  
at Illinois, W, 35-31  
Wisconsin, W, 13-10  
at Purdue, L, 32-31  
Indiana, W, 48-0  
Michigan State, W, 14-0  
at Northwestern, L, 54-51  
Penn State, W, 33-11  
at Ohio State, W, 38-26  
Auburn, W, 31-28

## Schedule

S1—Miami (Ohio)

S8—at Washington

S15—Western Michigan

S22—Illinois

O6—at Penn State

O13—Purdue

O27—at Iowa

N3—at Michigan State

N10—Minnesota

N17—at Wisconsin

N24—Ohio State

## Game of the year

Sept. 8—at Washington

The Wolverines won't have much time to get adjusted to life without QB Drew Henson. Their strength will be tested early with a visit to the defending Rose Bowl champions. Washington has one of the Pac-10's best defenses, and winning at Husky Stadium is no easy chore. A win could carry Michigan a long way.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

As the offense takes shape, the much-maligned defense must show it has learned from the beatings it took last season.

Offensive backfield: ★★  
Receivers: ★★  
Offensive line: ★★★  
Defensive line: ★★★  
Linebackers: ★★★  
Secondary: ★★★

Key: based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Marquise Walker	6-3	212	Sr.
	Calvin Bell	6-1	190	So.
T	Tony Pape	6-6	299	So.
	Ben Mast	6-4	298	Sr.
G	Ben Mast	6-4	298	Sr.
	Joe Denay	6-7	298	Jr.
C	Kurt Anderson	6-4	299	Sr.
	Jonathan Goodwin	6-4	294	Sr.
G	Jonathan Goodwin	6-4	294	Sr.
	Dave Petruziello	6-4	283	Jr.
T	Demetrius Solomon	6-6	297	So.
	Courtney Morgan	6-2	299	So.
TE	Shawn Thompson	6-4	254	Sr.
	Bill Seymour	6-3	252	Sr.
WR	Ronald Bellamy	6-0	193	Jr.
	Calvin Bell	6-1	190	So.
QB	John Navarre	6-6	242	So.
	Jermaine Gonzales	6-2	201	Fr.*
RB	Chris Perry	6-1	228	So.
	Walter Cross	5-11	209	Sr.
FB	B.J. Askew	6-3	224	Jr.
	Dave Armstrong	6-3	254	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Victor Hobson	6-1	242	Jr.
	John Spytek	6-3	243	So.
T	Shawn Lazarus	6-3	278	Jr.
	Norman Heuer	6-5	278	So.
NT	Grant Bowman	6-1	281	So.
	Gary Rose	6-4	285	Sr.
E	Dan Rumishek	6-3	277	Jr.
	Norman Heuer	6-5	278	So.
OLB	Larry Stevens	6-3	245	So.
	Alain Kashama	6-4	236	So.
ILB	Larry Foote	6-1	228	Sr.
	Anthony Jordan	6-0	226	Sr.
ILB	Eric Brackins	6-2	235	Sr.
	Carl Diggs	6-1	245	So.
CB	Jeremy LeSueur	6-0	191	So.
	Brandon Williams	5-11	180	Jr.
SS	Julius Curry	6-0	191	Jr.
	Charles Drake	6-1	197	Jr.
FS	Cato June	6-1	213	Jr.
	Charles Drake	6-1	197	Jr.
CB	Todd Howard	5-10	183	Jr.
	Markus Curry	6-0	180	Fr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Hayden Epstein	6-2	205	Sr.
P	Hayden Epstein	6-2	205	Sr.

Returning starters in bold

**Offensive philosophy:** The Wolverines were dealt their first heartbreaking loss of the season in March. And it was a doozy. Drew Henson, who could have been the best quarterback in the nation this fall, left to sign a multimillion deal to play third base full time in the New York Yankees organization. That came a couple of months after teammate David Terrell, one of the best receivers in the country, opted for the NFL a year early. Many feel the Wolverines' chances of winning the Big Ten vanished with those two. The Wolverines feel otherwise, despite the fact they also lost RB Anthony Thomas, the school's all-time leading rusher, and four starting offensive linemen, including Ts Jeff Backus and Maurice Williams and G Steve Hutchinson.

Michigan will keep its offensive philosophy the same and hope the depth of the program can fill the holes. The Wolverines vary their offense as well as any team in the nation. They were one of only three teams to average at least 200 yards rushing (220.2) and 200 passing (225.3) last season. Last year's attack, which averaged 445.5 yards, was the second-most prolific in school annals. Only the 1992 offense (466.9) was better. At receiver, Marquise Walker will emerge as an All-American candidate, Ronald Bellamy is always dangerous and Tyrece Butler is expected to make a solid return from a knee injury. The Wolverines are green at running back and on the offensive line but have several qualified candidates who are ready to step up. Tight end also is deep and strong, allowing Michigan to vary its formations from three tight ends one play to four wideouts the next.

**Offensive stars:** The nation got to know Henson's former backup, John Navarre, early last season after Henson broke his foot. Navarre, a redshirt freshman at the time, calmly took over and started the first four games, stepping aside midway through the fourth game as Henson came on to lead the team to a come-from-behind win at Illinois. Navarre, who threw eight touchdowns and only one interception as Michigan started 3-1, has several strengths that would enable him to start for most teams in the Big Ten. He's huge, has a strong arm and reminds many people of former Wolverines QB Elvis Grbac. Navarre also is cool under pressure. That's good because he's under a lot of it. Walker, a big target who was outstanding on third downs last season, has the ability to make people forget Terrell. Senior G Jonathan Goodwin elbowed his way onto the offensive line last year, not an easy task for an underclassman on a team with the best offensive line in the Big Ten. Goodwin might move to center, where he would be one of the better ones in a conference that is loaded at the position. TE Shawn Thompson returns after missing all but one game last year with an injury.

**Offensive concerns:** The Wolverines lose 5,003 yards and 52 touchdowns rushing, receiving and passing without Thomas, Terrell and Henson. Also, there is inexperience at tailback and on the offensive line. Michigan, however, is confident it can reload and keep going. Thomas rushed for 1,733 yards, a 5.4-yard average and 18 touchdowns last season. The top returning rusher is Chris Perry, who had 417 yards, five touchdowns and a 5.4-yard average as a freshman. Perry is built a lot like Thomas and has plenty of speed. But Perry is far from a lock to replace Thomas as the starter. The Wolverines could end up rotating up to four players in the running game. Senior Walter Cross, sophomore Ryan Beard and starting FB B.J. Askew all bring something different. Cross has great hands and elusiveness. Askew will run over defenders. Beard is a Jamie Morris-type runner who is small enough and fearless enough to hit small holes in a hurry. On the line, Hutchinson and Backus, four-year starters, are gone. But highly touted Tony Pape, a backup last year, could be a force at right tackle. Senior Ben Mast, who started in 1999 but lost his job to Goodwin last year, will return at right guard. The biggest area of concern on the line is at left tackle, where Navarre's blind-side protection falls to sophomore Demetrius

## TSNumber

**53**

The combined rushing, receiving and passing TDs Michigan received in 12 games last season from

RB Anthony Thomas, WR David Terrell and QB Drew Henson. Terrell and Henson each left with a year of eligibility remaining. The replacements' jobs will be difficult because the Wolverines also are looking for four new starters along the offensive line.



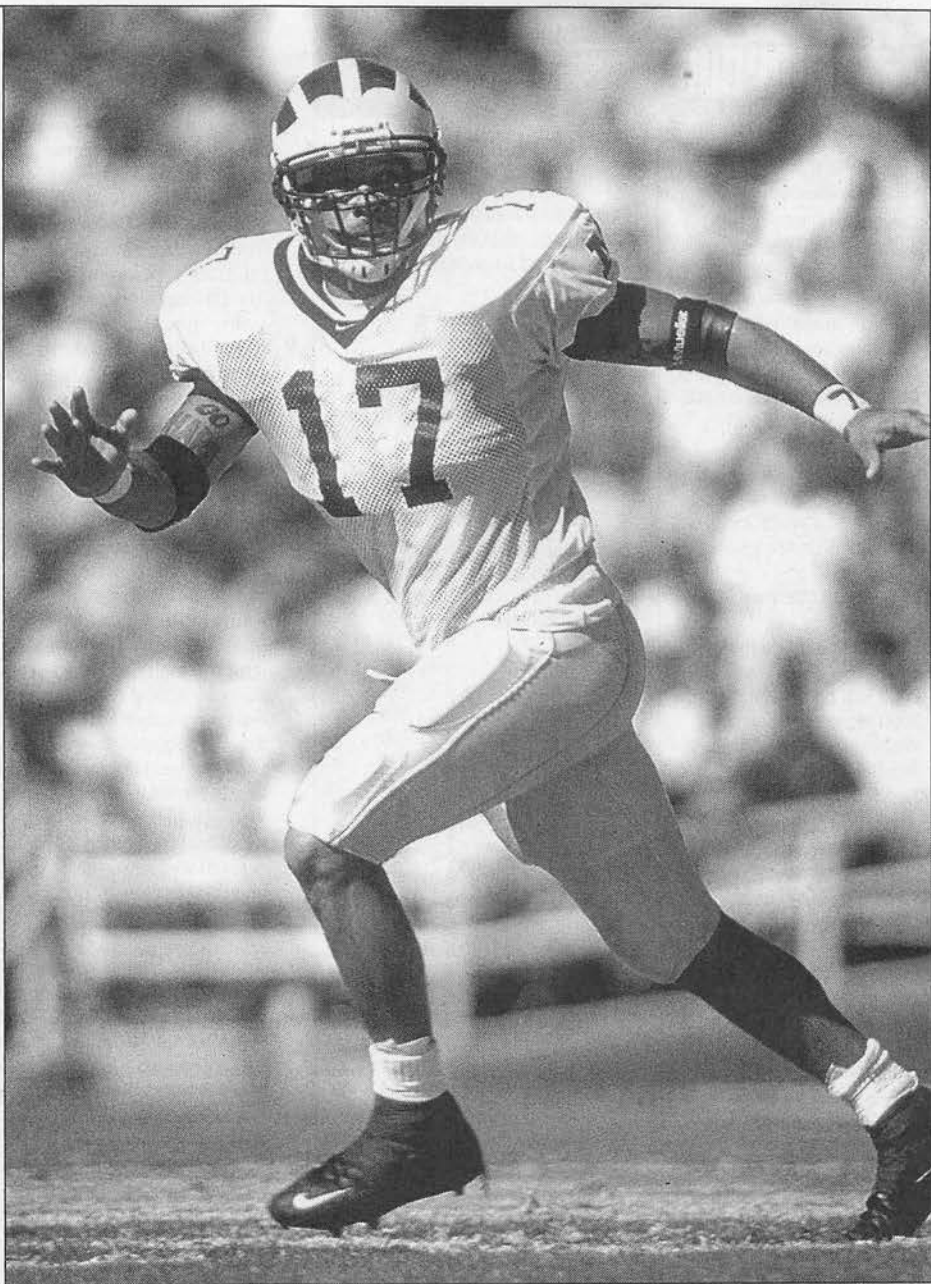
Solomon. If Goodwin works out at center, junior Joe Denay probably will play left guard. Denay is huge, but he was a third-teamer last season. Although Navarre is quite durable, his backup is a question mark. The Wolverines have Andy Mignery, who has attempted four career passes, and signed 6-5, 220-pound lefty Spencer Brinton, who started at San Diego State as a true freshman four years ago. Brinton was injured his sophomore year and then left school for two years on a Mormon mission. Redshirt freshman Jermaine Gonzales also is a possibility.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Wolverines switch between a 3-4 and 4-3, depending on the situation. A key player in their front seven is whoever plays the rush end/drop linebacker position. Last year, that role fell into the hands of three youngsters, redshirt freshman Shantee Orr and true freshmen Larry Stevens and Alain Kashama. Needless to say, the year's experience for all three makes this season more promising. All three are exceptional athletes who can rush the passer or cover. The most physically impressive is Kashama. Overall, Michigan was young and sloppy on defense last year. But eight starters return from the team that beat Auburn in the Citrus Bowl and finished No. 11 in the country. Linebacker is the strength and is deep, with everyone returning. There also are lots of bodies up front, including E Jake Frysinger, who hurt his foot in the first game last season and missed the rest of the year. Other players to watch are T Norman Boebert, T Shawn Lazarus and E Dan Rumishek.

**Defensive stars:** ILB Larry Foote is a candidate for conference defensive player of the year. He averaged 10 tackles over the final five games last season and is a big-time leader. E Victor Hobson led the team in sacks and tackles for loss last year. CB Todd Howard, who had six interceptions, could become the best corner in the conference. He was one reason Michigan paced the Big Ten in turnover margin with a plus-13 mark.

**Defensive concerns:** Statistically, last year's defense was the worst ever for Michigan in terms of yardage, allowing 389.9 yards per game to rank sixth in the Big Ten. The 1982 defense (366.8) had held that dubious distinction. Still, the 2000 unit ranked second in the Big Ten in scoring defense (19.1), the only stat that matters. Michigan has a hole to fill on the line and a couple of question marks in the secondary. The Wolverines lost Eric Wilson, a four-year letterman at tackle, and defensive backs James Whitley and DeWayne Patmon. Cato June, who started at free safety in 1999 but missed 2000 with a knee injury, is back and will replace Patmon. All indications are June will make a full recovery. Jeremy LeSueur and Brandon Williams will battle for Whitley's old cornerback position. Coaches also are focusing on developing a better pass rush. Last year, the Wolverines netted just 21 sacks to rank eighth in the league. The lack of a good rush was one reason the pass defense was so horrid, ranking as the second-worst in Michigan history (242.8).

**Special teams:** Bellamy has outstanding moves for a punt returner. Last season, he averaged 11.7 yards per return. Cross is back at



**LEADING BY EXAMPLE:** Foote averaged 10 tackles over Michigan's last five games. This year, he could be the Big Ten's top defensive player.

kick returner but will have to improve on his 18.9-yard average. Perry can help out there. K/P Hayden Epstein, a finalist for the Ray Guy Award last year, is back and again will handle both jobs.

**Coaching staff:** Lloyd Carr's staff returns intact, and the latest recruiting class again is among the best in the nation. Because of where he's at, Carr doesn't get the amount of credit he deserves. Defensively, he shouldn't have to worry much this season.

Offensively, if the running back situation doesn't develop the way Carr hopes, he will be forced to abandon some of his conservative game-day habits and turn more control over to Navarre.

**Bottom line:** There's no question Michigan's chances of winning the Big Ten were damaged when Henson left. But don't count out the Wolverines. There are no dominant teams in the conference this year. Everybody has holes to fill. Michigan's offense looks like a ghost town now, but don't be surprised if effective replacements are plugged in and the Wolverines make a run at the title. You can bet they'll be playing in a decent bowl game somewhere.

TODD WASHAW FOR TSN



# 3 Purdue

**National Rank**  
**25**

**Coach:** Joe Tiller (33-16, 4 years; 72-46-1 overall, 10 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Jim Chaney (4th season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Brock Spack (5th season)

**Offensive scheme:** One-back

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 7

**Lettermen lost:** 19

**Lettermen returning:** 36

**Site:** West Lafayette, Ind

**Stadium:** Ross-Ade (grass, 67,332)

**Last league title won:** 2000 (tie)

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1996

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 24

**2000 record:** 8-4 (lost to Washington in Rose Bowl); Big Ten: 6-2/T1st

**Website:** www.purduesports.com

## 2000 Results

Central Michigan, W, 48-0

Kent State, W, 45-10

at Notre Dame, L, 23-21

Minnesota, W, 38-24

at Penn State, L, 22-20

Michigan, W, 32-31

at Northwestern, W, 41-28

at Wisconsin, W, 30-24 (OT)

Ohio State, W, 31-27

at Michigan State, L, 30-10

Indiana, W, 41-13

Washington, L, 34-24

## Schedule

S2—at Cincinnati

S15—Notre Dame

S22—Akron

S29—at Minnesota

O6—Iowa

**O13—at Michigan**

O27—Northwestern

N3—Illinois

N10—at Ohio State

N17—Michigan State

## Game of the year

**Oct. 13—at Michigan**

If the Boilermakers slip past Notre Dame—a huge if—they could be 5-0 when they face Michigan, with back-to-back home games to follow. Much of those hopes, though, rest with the development of QB Brandon Hance. If he's on against Michigan's suspect secondary, Purdue could win at the Big House for the first time since 1966.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The defense should be solid and must carry the load while the offense re-tools behind a new quarterback and a rebuilt line.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★

**Receivers:** ★★

**Offensive line:** ★

**Defensive line:** ★★★★★

**Linebackers:** ★★★

**Secondary:** ★★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Andre Henderson	6-3	197	So.
	A.T. Simpson	6-4	232	Sr.
T	Pete Loughheed	6-5	279	Jr.
	Tyler Moore	6-7	273	Fr.*
G	Kelly Kitchel	6-6	306	Jr.
	Sean Ruffolo	6-2	280	Sr.
C	<b>Gene Mruczkowski</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Nick Pilipauskis	6-2	264	So.
G	Rob Turner	6-4	304	Jr.
	Max Miller	6-3	279	Jr.
T	Kelly Butler	6-8	297	Fr.*
	Dave Owen	6-8	275	Fr.*
TE	<b>Tim Stratton</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Chris Randolph	6-4	249	Sr.
WR	<b>Seth Morales</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Gary Heaggans	6-3	197	So.
WR	John Standeford	6-4	187	So.
	Taylor Stubblefield	6-1	166	Fr.*
QB	Brandon Hance	6-1	190	Fr.*
	Carl Buerger	6-0	211	Jr.
RB	<b>Montrell Lowe</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Sedrick Brown	6-1	246	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Akin Ayodele</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Vedran Dzolovic	6-2	245	So.
T	<b>Craig Terrill</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Luke Burroughs	6-4	261	So.
T	<b>Matt Mitrione</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Mike Lawrence	6-5	268	Fr.*
E	<b>Shaun Phillips</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Ken Nesfield	6-2	236	So.
WLB	<b>Landon Johnson</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Jason Loerzel	6-3	217	Sr.
MLB	<b>Joe Odom</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Alex Tone	5-10	216	Jr.
SLB	<b>Gilbert Gardner</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Niko Koutouvides	6-3	228	So.
CB	<b>Ashante Woodyard</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jacques Reeves	6-1	180	So.
SS	<b>Ralph Turner</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Ben Smith	6-3	210	Sr.
FS	<b>Stuart Schweigert</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Brady Doe	6-0	194	Sr.
CB	Antvaun Rogers	6-2	166	Fr.*
	Deaunte Ferrell	5-11	190	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Travis Dorsch</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
P	<b>Scott Kurz</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Sr.</b>

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** We'll find out how much of Purdue's success offensively the last three years was due to Drew Brees and how much of it was due to coach Joe Tiller's system. Tiller doesn't plan to change a whole lot now that Brees is gone. Redshirt freshman Brandon Hance, in many ways a clone of Brees, has been plugged in at quarterback on the defending Big Ten champion. Hance is the same height as Brees, but he's quicker. However, his arm may not be as strong. The Boilermakers love Hance's athletic ability and presence in the pocket, and they believe that in time he'll have the same grasp on Tiller's spread offense as did Brees, who shattered numerous Big Ten passing records while leading Purdue to its first Rose Bowl in 34 years. Hance already has a good jump on the offense. He graduated from high school early so he could participate in the 2000 spring practice. He entered last season as Brees' backup and saw limited action in the first two games before he was redshirted. Hance received 90 percent of the Boilermakers' snaps in spring practice this year and is hands-down the man for the job. One of the tweaks Tiller and coordinator Jim Chaney have in store for the offense is the use of more two-back formations, with the second back working as a receiving threat. Sedrick Brown is the best pass-catching back on the roster. True freshman Reggie Benton, who initially committed to Michigan last year before returning to high school to hone his grades, is another possibility. As usual, Tiller has assembled a variety of receivers, so Vinny Sutherland's departure shouldn't hurt the attack too much.

**Offensive stars:** Tim Stratton returns for his senior season after winning the inaugural Mackey Award as the nation's top tight end. He's one of the best receiving tight ends in Purdue history and an All-American candidate. However, he could stand to improve his blocking. RB Montrell Lowe is a shifty little back who is coming off a 998-yard season. He's small, but he's tough. His biggest shortcoming is his knack for fumbling. Gene Mruczkowski is a two-year starter at guard who will be moved to center. He's a heady and tough player who should adapt quickly. Rob Turner is a physical guard who started to excel at midseason last year. WR John Standeford was one of the biggest surprises in the Big Ten last year, getting TSN Freshman All-American honors.

**Offensive concerns:** Regardless of Hance's potential, losing Brees constitutes the biggest concern of any Big Ten team. It doesn't help that there is no experienced quarterback to fall back on. In the spring, Ben Smith was moved to quarterback, a position he played his first year on campus before switching to safety, where he has played the past three years. The only other options are junior Carl Buerger and true freshmen Kyle Orton and Mike Rhinehart. Orton is considered a big catch. The Boilermakers also must replace three fifth-year seniors on the line, including Ts Matt Light and Brandon Gorin. Redshirt freshman T Kelly Butler looks promising and showed signs of being a contributor in the spring.

Coaches have been pleased with Pete Loughheed's transition from tight end to left tackle. Although Purdue has plenty of receiving options, it will be difficult to replace Sutherland's speed and big-play ability. He snagged 65 catches and scored 11 touchdowns last year. Seth Morales has big-play skills. There also are a couple of redshirt freshmen who could emerge, including Taylor Stubblefield, a rangy target who has caught the eyes of coaches.

**Defensive philosophy:** If there's one thing keeping Tiller calm about the youthful inexperience of his key offensive player, it's his defense. Ten starters return from a defense that ranked third in the Big Ten last season. Coordinator Brock Spack's hot-pursuing 4-3 attack scheme has arguably the best line in the conference, some of the league's most active, athletic linebackers and two of the best safeties. The Boilermakers won't overwhelm teams with size, but they will run

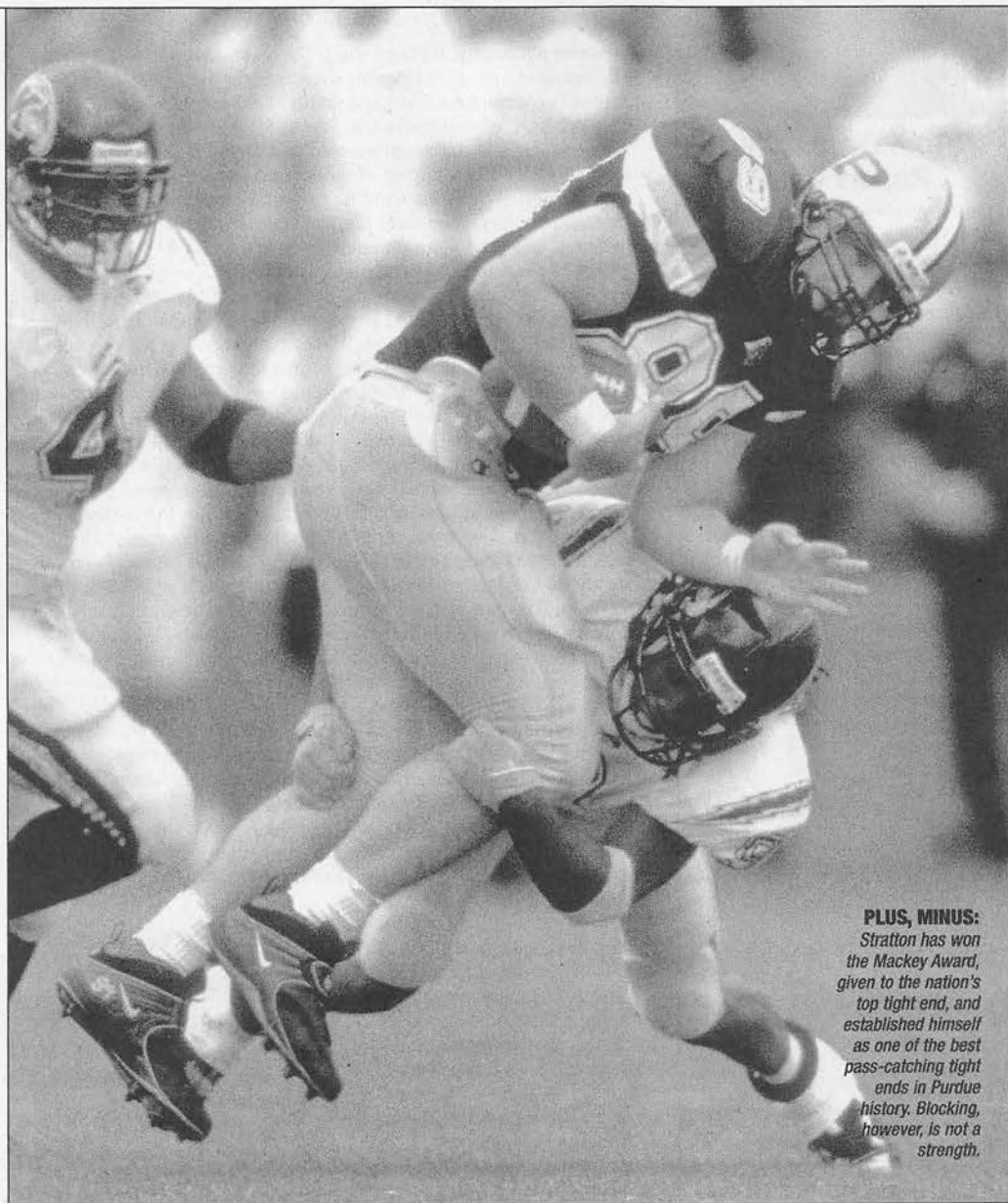
## TSNumber

**9**

The passes Purdue's quarterbacks have attempted in their college careers. All were thrown by

Brandon Hance, who completed five last season as a freshman before taking a redshirt. The departed Drew Brees threw 473 passes last year and 1,639 in his career. If that's an indication of things to come, Hance had better keep his right arm warm.





**PLUS, MINUS:**  
Stratton has won the Mackey Award, given to the nation's top tight end, and established himself as one of the best pass-catching tight ends in Purdue history. Blocking, however, is not a strength.

PAUL NISSELY / TSN

#### Defensive concerns:

There aren't many. The one starter not returning is 5-7 CB Chris Clopton. However, the Boilermakers believe redshirt freshman Antwaun Rogers can fill the void. He is lean, long and the fastest player on the team. With him in the lineup, Purdue won't have a player shorter than 6-2 in the starting secondary. Another area to keep an eye on is weak-side linebacker. Landon Johnson is an outstanding athlete, but coaches are contemplating also using speedy Gilbert Gardner at the position.

**Special teams:** Travis Dorsch kicked and punted before relinquishing punting chores midway through last year. He may try to do both again. Dorsch has a strong leg, but he took too long to get off punts, which resulted in several blocks that led to early-season losses. The long-snapping also was inconsistent. If Dorsch struggles punting, Scott Kurz is still around. The return teams won't be the same without Sutherland and Clopton. Schweigert may return both punts and kicks. Deaunte Ferrell is another candidate.

#### Coaching staff:

Of the four Big Ten coaches who entered the conference in 1997—Tiller, Minnesota's Glen Mason, Illinois' Ron Turner and Indiana's Cam Cameron—Tiller has by far produced the best results. The question now is whether he can sustain the success without Brees. By not having an experienced quarterback to take over for Brees or fall back on in case Hance fails, Tiller has put himself and the Boilermakers in a vulnerable position. Then again, it's awfully difficult to question Tiller's judgment when it comes to quarterbacks and offenses. Tiller lost two assistant coaches during the offseason, including quarterbacks coach Greg Olson, who took the same job with the San Francisco 49ers. Blaine Bennett, the former head coach at Division II Western Oregon, replaces Olson. Bennett knows quarterbacks. He recruited Drew Bledsoe to Washington State.

**Bottom line:** The defense will be fine, possibly exceptional, but the Boilermakers' offense needs a year or more to develop under Hance. It helps that Wisconsin and Penn State were dropped from the schedule and replaced by home games against Iowa and Illinois. However, there also are trips to Michigan and Ohio State. Purdue has the ability to make a fifth straight bowl appearance, but it won't repeat as Big Ten co-champion.

them down. That's the new wave in college football, a way to counter the offenses that are using smaller, quicker players and spreading them all over the field. Who knows that better than Tiller? He needs this type of defense just so he can line up and practice every day. The Boilermakers' experience on defense should give Tiller's offense time to grow.

**Defensive stars:** E Akin Ayodele, who has led the team in sacks and tackles for loss the past two seasons, is the emotional leader of the defense. Matt Mittrione is a little undersized, but he's also one of the best tackles in the conference. He's an emotional player who plays with great intensity. Stuart Schweigert, last year's Big Ten freshman of the year, is a wide-ranging free safety with great speed. He had five interceptions and could have had more had an injury not forced him to play with a cast on one hand early in the year. MLB Joe Odom has gotten heavier but hasn't sacrificed any speed. CB Ashante Woodyard is built like a safety, but his size doesn't encumber his cover skills. SS Ralph Turner, who was third on the team in tackles and had four sacks last season, is a big player who makes receivers think twice before crossing the middle. E Shaun Phillips is coming off a season in which he had 13 tackles for loss, including seven sacks. He plans on being bigger and better in the fall. T Craig Terrill had six sacks last season.



# 4 Wisconsin

**National Rank**  
**27**

**Coach:** Barry Alvarez (79-48-4, 11 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Brian White (3rd season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Kevin Cosgrove (8th season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple one- and two-back  
**Defensive scheme:** Multiple front  
**Starters lost:** 14  
**Lettermen lost:** 27  
**Lettermen returning:** 33  
**Site:** Madison, Wis.  
**Stadium:** Camp Randall (artificial turf, 76,129)  
**Last league title won:** 1999  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1995  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 4  
**2000 record:** 9-4 (beat UCLA in Sun Bowl); Big Ten: 4-4/T5th  
**Website:** www.uwbadgers.com

## 2000 Results

Western Michigan, W, 19-7  
Oregon, W, 27-23  
Cincinnati, W, 28-25  
Northwestern, L, 47-44  
at Michigan, L, 13-10  
Ohio State, L, 23-7  
at Michigan State, W, 17-10  
Purdue, L, 30-24  
at Iowa, W, 13-7  
Minnesota, W, 41-20  
at Indiana, W, 43-22  
at Hawaii, W, 34-18  
UCLA, W, 21-20

## Schedule

A25—Virginia  
S1—at Oregon  
S8—Fresno State  
S15—Western Kentucky  
S22—at Penn State  
O6—Indiana  
O13—at Ohio State  
O20—at Illinois  
O27—Michigan State  
N3—Iowa  
N17—Michigan  
N24—at Minnesota

## Game of the year

**Nov. 17—Michigan**

If the Badgers are still in the hunt in November, they will have two advantages over the Wolverines. The game is at home, and the Badgers are off the week before. But UW is a long way from being in the hunt this late. Still, beating Michigan for the first time since 1994 and keeping it from the conference title would be satisfying enough.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The Badgers need a ballcarrier to spearhead their offense. A quarterback controversy might muck things up. The defense looks average.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★  
**Receivers:** ★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★  
**Secondary:** ★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Nick Davis	5-10	183	Sr.
	Byron Brown	6-0	184	So.
T	<b>Ben Johnson</b>	<b>6-7</b>	<b>319</b>	Jr.
	Jason Jowers	6-6	310	Jr.
G	Dan Buehning	6-4	299	Fr.
	Jonathan Clinkscale	6-3	302	Fr.
C	<b>Al Johnson</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>280</b>	Jr.
	Jason Jowers	6-6	310	Jr.
G	Jeremy Dox	6-3	281	Sr.
	Kalvin Barrett	6-2	316	Fr.
T	Jason Jowers	6-6	310	Jr.
	Mike Lorenz	6-5	296	Fr.
TE	Mark Anelli	6-5	255	Sr.
	Mark Bell	6-4	244	Fr.
WR	<b>Lee Evans</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>190</b>	Jr.
	David Braun	5-11	188	Jr.
QB	<b>Brooks Bollinger</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>204</b>	Jr.
	Jim Sorgi	6-5	178	So.
RB	Tyron Griffin	6-0	231	Fr.*
	Jerone Pettus	5-9	176	Fr.*
FB	<b>Chad Kuhns</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>230</b>	Sr.
	Erik Bickerstaff	6-0	219	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Wendell Bryant</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>293</b>	Sr.
	Jesse Mayfield	6-6	271	So.
T	Ben Herbert	6-4	238	Sr.
	Jason Sprague	6-4	283	Sr.
T	Darius Jones	6-3	268	So.
	Chuck Smith	6-6	267	Sr.
E	Delante McGrew	6-4	215	Sr.
	Traison Lewis	6-2	235	Fr.
OLB	Jerron Smith	6-1	229	Fr.
	Ryan Keepman	6-4	214	Fr.
MLB	<b>Nick Griesen</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>234</b>	Sr.
	P.J. Cannon	6-1	237	Jr.
OLB	<b>Jeff Mack</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>237</b>	So.
	Bryson Thompson	6-1	212	Sr.
CB	<b>Mike Echols</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>171</b>	Sr.
	Michael Broussard	5-10	185	So.
SS	<b>Joey Boese</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>170</b>	Sr.
	Ryan Simmons	5-11	188	Jr.
FS	Carlease Clark	5-11	192	Sr.
	Ryan Aiello	6-1	204	So.
CB	B.J. Tucker	5-11	171	Jr.
	Chuckie Cowans	5-8	162	Fr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Mark Nueser	5-9	164	So.
P	Kirk Munden	5-9	172	So.

*Returning starters in bold*

*\* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** Badgers coach Barry Alvarez was watching film of Northwestern's 47-44 double-overtime win over Wisconsin last September when he turned to a group of assistants and said, "Wow!" The Wildcats' explosiveness was impressive, but what really caught Alvarez's eye was that Northwestern was spreading the field to run the ball. Obviously a big fan of the ground game, Alvarez and his coaches started tinkering with the idea of a spread offense. They put some spread formations into the playbook during the team's bowl practices and used them on about six snaps in the 21-20 win over UCLA in the Sun Bowl. The plays worked well enough that some of the Badgers' offensive assistants, including coordinator Brian White, asked for and were granted permission to pick the brains of Lou Holtz's staff at South Carolina. Wisconsin worked on the spread some in spring practice and feels confident it can use the attack when needed. Although Alvarez would use it to feature the run, the spread also could do nothing but help the passing game, which ranked last in the Big Ten with 164.8 yards per game last season. QB Brooks Bollinger is similar in style to Northwestern's Zak Kustok. RB Michael Bennett would have been perfect in a spread offense, but he left early for the NFL after ranking third in the nation with a 159.8-yard rushing average. Although the spread is something to look for, don't expect Alvarez to make it his main course. After all, a steady diet of four wideouts and one running back at Wisconsin would look as out of place as lipstick on a cow. Despite new faces at tailback, tight end and three offensive line positions, Wisconsin's core philosophy will continue to focus on the traditional power offense with a tight end, fullback and big linemen. But White is lobbying to throw the ball more.

**Offensive stars:** Massive T Ben Johnson is ready to make a leap and become Wisconsin's next great lineman. A Wisconsin-bred product, Johnson is more athletic than former Badgers greats Aaron Gibson and Chris McIntosh. WR Lee Evans should assume Chris Chambers' role as No. 1 receiver. Evans is a big-play guy with exceptional hands and gained 19.2 yards per catch as a sophomore last season. Another speedy threat at receiver is Nick Davis, who returns to the team after being suspended for the Sun Bowl because of off-field troubles. The Badgers also signed four highly regarded receivers. Two of them, Jonathan Orr and Dontez Sanders, are good enough to help right now. Bollinger is 17-3 as a starter but doesn't have a lock on the quarterback position. Alvarez wouldn't be opposed to alternating Bollinger and Jim Sorgi.

**Offensive concerns:** The Badgers have more questions than answers. Tailback, the line and tight end are the biggest worries. Quarterback and No. 1 receiver also are a little murky.

When Ron Dayne was in Madison, third-and-5 was a short-yardage situation. When Bennett was there, the threat of an 80-yard run was present. Now, tailback is the team's biggest question. Wisconsin is thin and inexperienced at the position. Broderick Williams, the only tailback on the roster who carried the ball last year, suffered a spring knee injury that will keep him out this season. Three redshirt freshmen could emerge: Jerone Pettus, a 5-9 jitterbug; Tyron Griffin, a banger who reminds some people of Dayne; and Anthony Davis, a high school track star who is similar to Pettus. If the Badgers spread the field, Pettus and Davis could be especially effective. The chances of a workhorse surfacing are slim, which means Wisconsin's Big Ten record of eight consecutive seasons with a 1,000-yard rusher is in jeopardy. As for the offensive line, it allowed 43 sacks last year (second most in the league) despite attempting a Big Ten-low 282 passes. As a comparison, Purdue threw 528 passes and suffered just 10 sacks. The Badgers have lost four-year starters in Casey Rabach, Dave Costa and Bill Ferrario and their top two tight ends in John

## TSNumber

**66**

The percent of the rushing offense that departed RB Michael Bennett accounted for.

Bennett ran for 1,681 of UW's 2,549 yards. Not only was Bennett productive, he was durable. To fill that void, the Badgers will turn to a trio of redshirt freshmen. The leading returning rusher is junior QB Brooks Bollinger, who ran for 459 yards.



Sigmund and Dague Retzlaff. At quarterback, even though Bollinger and Sorgi have experience, neither is the complete package. The job is Bollinger's to lose, but the door is open for a dreaded quarterback controversy.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Badgers run a 4-3 scheme that's built to stop the run and doesn't stretch very well to cover spread attacks. That's one reason Wisconsin doesn't mind having Northwestern and Purdue off the schedule this year. The drop linebacker plays a key role in the system. Roger Knight played the position well last year as a senior. Stepping into the role are Bryson Thompson, who's a bit smaller than Knight, and Jeff Mack. If Thompson doesn't work out, the Badgers will turn to redshirt freshman Jerron Smith, Wisconsin's scout team defensive player of the year last fall.

**Defensive stars:** T Wendell Bryant, a two-time all-league pick, is a stalwart, but he often has to deal with double-teams. Losing cornerback and Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year Jamar Fletcher to the NFL a year early doesn't help. But that doesn't mean the cupboard is bare at the position. Underrated Mike Echols, who had five picks last year, showed that though he might not be as flashy as Fletcher, he's still one of the top corners in the country. B.J. Tucker, who was second to Bennett in the Big Ten 100-meter dash last year, will get a crack at the other cornerback position. MLB Nick Greisen led the Big Ten in tackles with 146 last season. He also tied for the team lead in sacks with six.

**Defensive concerns:** Fletcher, who also won the Thorpe Award and led the Big Ten with six interceptions, created many turnovers for the Badgers the past three years, and it will be difficult to find someone who can come up with key momentum-turning plays. The Badgers also lose a leader in the secondary in FS Jason Doering and a fine rush end in John Favret. Carlease Clark is the likely replacement for Doering, but he's much smaller than his predecessor. Ryan Aiello, who played special teams as a true freshman last season, is a bigger option at the position. Darius Jones, a mega prospect, is a person to keep an eye on at rush end. He was brought to Madison as an outside linebacker but has grown out of the position.

**Special teams:** The Badgers are worried about this area because P Kevin Stemke, the 2000 Ray Guy Award winner, and K Vitaly Pisetky were so solid. In their places step a pair of unproven walk-



**ONE ISN'T ENOUGH:**  
There's no telling how good the relentless Bryant might be if he received only single-teaming.

ons: Mark Neuser at kicker and Kirk Munden at punter. Davis will handle punt and kickoff returns. He's one of the nation's best.

**Coaching staff:** A last-minute flirtation with Miami (Fla.) right before signing day doesn't appear to have hurt Alvarez's standing in Madison. A three-time Rose Bowl champion, Alvarez says he's a Badger for life now. The first challenge he faces is molding one of his least experienced teams into one that can at least make a run at a New Year's Day bowl. Alvarez and his staff are sound fundamentally and did a good job holding the team together through last year's debacle involving players and shoe discounts. His willingness to bring at least a touch of the spread offense to Madison—and possibly throw the ball more—shows he isn't a coach who will let the modern game pass him by.

**Bottom line:** This will be a difficult season from the get-go with a season-opening visit from Virginia in the Eddie Robinson Classic followed by a trip to Oregon. The Badgers also have to travel to Penn State and Ohio State. But the good news is their defense gets a break from Northwestern and Purdue. With so many new faces, the Badgers won't win the Big Ten. Realistically, they're hoping for seven wins and possibly a New Year's Day bowl.



# 5 Ohio State

**National rank**  
**30**

**Coach:** Jim Tressel (1st year; 135-57-2 overall, 15 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Jim Bollman (1st season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Mark Dantonio (1st season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 12  
**Lettermen lost:** 25  
**Lettermen returning:** 41  
**Site:** Columbus, Ohio  
**Stadium:** Ohio Stadium (grass, 99,000)  
**Last league title won:** 1998 (tie)  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1999  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 15  
**2000 record:** 8-4 (lost to South Carolina in Outback Bowl); Big Ten: 5-3/4th  
**Website:** www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com

## 2000 Results

Fresno State, W, 43-10  
at Arizona, W, 27-17  
Miami (Ohio), W, 27-16  
Penn State, W, 45-6  
at Wisconsin, W, 23-7  
Minnesota, L, 29-17  
at Iowa, W, 38-10  
at Purdue, L, 31-27  
Michigan State, W, 27-13  
at Illinois, W, 24-21  
Michigan, L, 38-26  
South Carolina, L, 24-7

## Schedule

S8—Akron  
S15—San Diego State  
S22—at UCLA  
S29—at Indiana  
O6—Northwestern  
O13—Wisconsin  
O27—at Penn State  
N3—at Minnesota  
N10—Purdue  
N17—Illinois  
N24—at Michigan

## Game of the year

**Nov. 24—at Michigan**  
Think Jim Tressel's heart will be pounding in the Big House on this day? John Cooper was canned in part because of his 2-10-1 mark against the Wolverines. The honeymoon for Tressel will be over unless he can win here. The other game of the year: November 3 at Minnesota, when spurned OSU alum Glen Mason and Tressel meet for the first time.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The skill positions on offense are unproven, but there is talent on hand. The secondary shouldn't skip a beat despite some heavy losses.

**Offensive backfield:** ★  
**Receivers:** ★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★ ★★  
**Secondary:** ★★ ★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Drew Carter	6-4	187	So.
	Michael Jenkins	6-4	200	So.
T	<b>Adrien Clark</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Ivan Douglas	6-6	295	So.
G	Alex Stepanovich	6-4	285	So.
	Scott Kuhnhein	6-4	285	Sr.
C	<b>LeCharles Bentley</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Mike Jacobs	6-1	285	Sr.
G	Jim Massey	6-5	290	Sr.
	Bryce Bishop	6-3	300	So.
T	Tyson Walter	6-5	300	Sr.
	Shane Olivea	6-4	330	So.
TE	<b>Darnell Sanders</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Ben Hartsock	6-3	250	So.
WR	Ricky Bryant	6-0	175	So.
	John Hollins	6-2	180	Fr.*
QB	<b>Steve Bellisari</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Craig Krenzel	6-4	215	So.
RB	Jonathan Wells	6-1	230	Sr.
	Sam Maldonado	6-0	230	So.
FB	<b>Jamar Martin</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jesse Kline	6-1	227	So.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Kenny Peterson	6-4	265	Jr.
	Derrion Scott	6-3	265	So.
T	<b>Mike Collins</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Fred Stirrup	6-3	291	So.
T	Tim Anderson	6-3	289	So.
	David Thompson	6-5	280	Jr.
E	Will Smith	6-3	240	So.
	Josh McDanel	6-3	210	Fr.*
OLB	Courtland Bullard	6-3	227	Sr.
	Robert Reynolds	6-3	220	So.
MLB	<b>Matt Wilhelm</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Fred Pagac	6-1	225	So.
OLB	<b>Joe Cooper</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Cie Grant	6-1	220	Jr.
CB	Richard McNutt	5-10	178	So.
	Harlan Jacobs	6-0	190	Fr.*
SS	<b>Mike Doss</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Will Allen	6-1	175	So.
FS	<b>Donnie Nickey</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Rob Stover	6-0	185	Fr.*
CB	Derek Ross	6-1	197	Jr.
	Curtis Crosby	5-11	180	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Josh Huston	6-1	185	Fr.*
P	<b>B.J. Sander</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>So.</b>

*Returning starters in bold*

**Offensive philosophy:** New coach Jim Tressel, a Woody Hayes disciple, used a ball-control, run-first mentality to win four Division I-AA national titles in 15 seasons at Youngstown State. That won't change now that Tressel has worked his way back to Columbus, especially because senior QB Steve Bellisari is a below-average passer and a somewhat dangerous runner. It also doesn't help the passing game that WRs Reggie Germany and Ken-Yon Rambo, who keyed the attack the past two seasons, are gone. Although Tressel hired former Chicago Bears tight ends coach Jim Bollman as his offensive coordinator, it's Tressel who will be constructing and running the offense. Bollman understands that, having served under Tressel at Youngstown for five years in the late 1980s. Tressel has quite a challenge ahead of him because the offense last year under Bellisari was weak at best, bottoming out in the 24-7 loss to South Carolina in the Outback Bowl. That cost John Cooper his job after 13 seasons and set in motion the search that brought Tressel to Columbus. Although his philosophy is similar to the ultra-conservative Hayes, Tressel brings a fresh style of coaching to OSU. He can be daring and likes to use a multitude of formations, from the power-I to a no-back scheme.

**Offensive stars:** The best players aren't glamorous. They're grunts. With Minnesota's Ben Hamilton gone, OSU's LeCharles Bentley assumes the role of best center in a conference that will have many outstanding centers this season. Huge TE Darnell Sanders has good hands and two years of starting experience. FB Jamar Martin, a rough-and-tumble sort, might be called on for more carries. At the very least, he will continue blasting holes in the defensive line. Another player to keep an eye on is Adrien Clarke, a tackle who made TSN's Freshman All-American team last season.

**Offensive concerns:** There is a lack of depth on the line, new faces at receiver, a running back who doesn't strike much fear in defenses and a worry that Ohio State will never win the Big Ten with Bellisari at quarterback. There's also the probability that it will take at least one fall for Tressel and the Buckeyes to get comfortable together. On the line, which lost three starters, the Buckeyes got some good news when T Tyson Walter was given a sixth year of eligibility. Walter had started 37 straight games before a back injury sidelined him last season, but it's unclear how he'll perform after a year off. Scott Kuhnhein, Bryce Bishop, Jim Massey and Alex Stepanovich could make moves for vacancies created by the departures of T Henry Fleming and Gs Tam Hopkins and Mike Gurr. Insiders insist Wide Receiver U. has reloaded with redshirt sophomores Ricky Bryant and Drew Carter. Neither were a factor in last year's offense. Bryant is a diminutive speedster, and Carter is a rangy target. Sophomore Michael Jenkins is another long and tall target. Junior college transfer Chris Vance also could emerge. RB Jonathan Wells, who replaces Derek Combs, has experience and

is big, but he's not going to carry an offense. Sam my Maldonado is another big back. Expect a push by three top-notch true freshmen: Jaja Riley, Lydell Ross and Maurice Hall. Hall, a 5-10, 180-pounder, rushed for 3,000 yards and 51 touchdowns as a high school senior at Brookhaven High in Columbus. Ross (6-0, 205) ran for 2,600 yards and a 7.5-yard average for Gaither High in Tampa, and Riley (6-2, 190) averaged 8.5 yards per carry for Mission Bay High in San Diego. At quarterback, if Bellisari doesn't show progress, Tressel might decide to try one of his sophomores, Scott McMullen or Craig Krenzel. Rick McFadden, a 6-7 redshirt freshman, is another possibility. Quarterback has rarely been a strength the past 20 years at Ohio State. Since Art Schlichter was All-Big Ten from 1979-81, just two Buckeyes quarterbacks have received the honor: Bobby Hoying in 1995 and Joe Germaine in 1998.

**Defensive philosophy:** There wasn't anything wrong with Fred Pagac's

## TSNumber

**29** The turnovers Ohio State forced last season. The figure led the Big Ten. The Buckeyes recovered 10 fumbles and intercepted 19 passes. With an offense that is looking for answers at every skill position, the Buckeyes need a repeat performance by their defense to have any chance of competing for a conference crown in what should be a wide-open race.





ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

**HELP WANTED:** Wells has size and experience but isn't likely to lift the offense by himself. He might get competition from a few talented freshmen.

defense last year. The Buckeyes were aggressive and often dominant, blitzing anyone and, at times, almost everyone en route to pacing the conference with 46 sacks. Pagac was a finalist for Cooper's job but never was seriously considered and was forced to leave Columbus. His replacement, Mark Dantonio, who coached Michigan State's defensive backs last season, will keep a lot of the same principles of Pagac's defense. Dantonio favors a variety of blitzes and trusts his cornerbacks to cover man-to-man. However, it's possible Dantonio will have to back off that somewhat considering Ohio State lost both of its starting cornerbacks from last season, including All-Big Ten first-teamer Nate Clements, who became yet another OSU underclassman to leave early for the NFL.

**Defensive stars:** SS Mike Doss is the best defensive player in the Big Ten and definite All-American material. He's quick, fast, tough and rock-solid. LB Joe Cooper, a former partial qualifier, got his academics in order and received a fourth year of eligibility. He was a leader last season and will be even better this year. In the middle, Matt Wilhelm returns to a deep and talented linebacker corps that was a major reason the Buckeyes led the Big Ten in rushing defense. T Mike Collins solidifies the middle with strength and experience. He'll have to be good because T Ryan Pickett opted to declare early for the NFL draft. A potential star at end is sophomore Will Smith, a highly recruited but slightly undersized prospect.

**Defensive concerns:** Replacing Clements and David Mitchell at cornerback is the top priority, and the result could make or break the defense. Richard McNutt will step in for Mitchell, and Derek Ross

will move from nickel back to replace Clements. At least Donnie Nickey is back at free safety. The line also is a bit of a concern because it will have two new starting ends. Kenny Peterson, an experienced backup, has been promoted to replace Rodney Bailey. Smith will be needed to replace steady Brent Johnson. Another concern is how well the players will adapt to Dantonio. This could be an especially important area to watch because Pagac was a favorite of the players, who were inspired enough to lead the Big Ten in scoring defense (18 ppg) and rushing defense (91.6-yard average) while finishing second overall (319.4).

**Special teams:** This is far from a strength. Dan Stultz is gone after handling the kicking duties for four seasons. Redshirt freshman Josh Huston is the front-runner to replace Stultz, who led the Big Ten with a 82.6 success rate on field-goal attempts (19-of-23). Rambo and Clements will be missed in the return game. Rambo led the Big Ten with a 28.1-yard kickoff-return average last year, and Clements averaged 13.1 yards per punt return with one touchdown. B.J. Sander returns at punter, but he is coming off a dismal season.

**Coaching staff:** Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger threw the Buckeyes into a tailspin at the worst possible time when he chose to wait until after the Outback Bowl to fire Cooper. The move hurt Ohio State's recruiting class and its national image. The way the search was conducted also was mishandled. Tressel

was an outstanding Division I-AA coach and his name is greatly respected in Ohio. However, because the search dragged on in full view of the public, the perception by many is Tressel got the job only after many bigger-name and more qualified coaches—Oregon's Mike Bellotti, Pittsburgh's Walt Harris and the Raiders' Jon Gruden—said, "No thanks." If you don't think that places more pressure on Tressel from the get-go, you haven't been to Columbus. There's also a high percentage of Buckeyes alumni who are still scratching their heads in disbelief that Minnesota's Glen Mason didn't get the job. Mason, after all, was the logical choice to return to his alma mater after 15 seasons of turning around down-trodden programs at Kent, Kansas and Minnesota. The good news is Tressel has an unflappable personality that carries over to Saturday afternoons. He's also well aware of the pressure that comes with the job.

**Bottom line:** Ohio State has problems offensively and can't be considered a threat in the Big Ten. The defense will be solid and aggressive as Doss' star power soars. The special teams don't look so special. At least the schedule isn't brutal. There is a trip to UCLA, but the only Big Ten road games that could be daunting are trips to Penn State and Michigan. At home, there will be a few thousand more fans in the seats of Ohio Stadium, as a renovation project that pushes capacity to 99,000 has been completed. Overall, it will take a year for Tressel and the players to adjust to each other. The Buckeyes won't win the Big Ten—Cooper was able to perform that feat just three times—but Tressel could lead them to a bowl in his first season. It's a start for a program that has gone an aggregate 14-10 the past two seasons and hasn't won a national championship since 1968.



# 6 Michigan State

**National rank**  
**35**

**Coach:** Bobby Williams (6-6, 1 year)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Morris Watts (3rd season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Bill Miller (3rd season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Pro set  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 16  
**Lettermen lost:** 24  
**Lettermen returning:** 40  
**Site:** East Lansing, Mich.  
**Stadium:** Spartan Stadium (artificial turf, 72,027)  
**Last league title:** 1990 (tie)  
**Last bowl appearance:** 2000  
**2000 TSN rank:** 24  
**2000 record:** 5-6; Big Ten: 2-6/79th  
**Website:**  
www.msuspartans.com

## 2000 results

Marshall, W, 34-24  
at Missouri, W, 13-10  
Notre Dame, W, 27-21  
Northwestern, L, 37-17  
at Iowa, L, 21-16  
Wisconsin, L, 17-10  
at Michigan, L, 14-0  
Illinois, W, 14-10  
at Ohio State, L, 27-13  
Purdue, W, 30-10  
at Penn State, L, 42-23

## Schedule

S8—Central Michigan  
S15—Missouri  
**S22—at Notre Dame**  
S29—at Northwestern  
O13—Iowa  
O20—at Minnesota  
O27—at Wisconsin  
N3—Michigan  
N10—Indiana  
N17—at Purdue  
N24—Penn State

## Game of the year

**Sept. 22—at Notre Dame**  
The Spartans couldn't capitalize on last year's big win over the Irish, but they must this season. A win at South Bend would give MSU a huge boost of confidence, especially considering the Spartans play three of their first four Big Ten games on the road. A loss to the Irish could begin a chain of problems that extends throughout the season.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The key to rebounding to bowl form is the development of the line on both sides of the ball. The receiving corps might be dynamite.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★  
**Receivers:** ★★★  
**Offensive line:** ★  
**Defensive line:** ★  
**Linebackers:** ★★  
**Secondary:** ★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Marcus Waters	6-4	233	Jr.
	Charles Rogers	6-4	207	So.
T	Ulish Booker	6-7	291	Jr.
	Joe Tate	6-5	275	So.
G	Paul Harker	6-3	298	Jr.
	Joe Patrick	6-5	304	So.
C	Brian Ottney	6-6	308	So.
	DeMarco Monroe	6-4	310	So.
G	William Whitticker	6-6	303	Fr.*
	Joe Brooks	6-3	285	So.
T	Steve Stewart	6-5	310	So.
	Sean Poole	6-6	290	Fr.*
TE	<b>Chris Baker</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Ivory McCoy	6-4	232	Sr.
WR	<b>Herb Haygood</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	BJ Lovett	6-4	200	Jr.
QB	Jeff Smoker	6-3	203	So.
	Ryan Van Dyke	6-5	224	Sr.
RB	<b>T.J. Duckett</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Little John Flowers	6-0	227	Sr.
FB	<b>Dawan Moss</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Bradshaw Littlejohn	6-1	248	So.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Nick Myers</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Clifford Dukes	6-3	239	Fr.*
T	Kyle Rasmussen	6-4	265	So.
	Dwight Whitfield	6-2	300	Fr.*
T	<b>Josh Shaw</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Lonnie Simmons	6-3	287	Fr.*
E	Greg Taplin	6-5	269	So.
	Samalji Gordon	6-5	265	So.
OLB	Dominick Brown	6-4	247	So.
	Dedrick Roper	6-2	247	So.
MLB	<b>Josh Thornhill</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jason Bradley	6-0	248	Fr.*
OLB	Mark Goebel	6-2	217	So.
	James Cooper	6-3	211	Fr.*
CB	<b>Cedric Henry</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jason Harmon	5-11	190	So.
SS	Thomas Wright	6-1	193	Jr.
	Duron Bryan	6-0	205	Sr.
FS	Lorenzo Guess	6-1	192	Sr.
	Jeremy Fairrow	6-0	200	So.
CB	DeMario Suggs	5-11	191	Sr.
	Shawn Foster	5-11	202	Sr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	David Schaefer	5-10	197	Sr.
P	Craig Jarrett	6-2	212	Sr.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** The Spartans think run first, and who can blame them? RB T.J. Duckett is 252 pounds, runs the 40-yard dash in 4.4 seconds and is one of the most dangerous and powerful backs in the country. However, he can't carry the offense. That was proved emphatically during a dismal 2000. Duckett ran for 1,353 yards and a 5.6-yard average, but the offense sputtered because no receiver had more than 539 yards or caught more than two touchdowns. QBs Jeff Smoker and Ryan Van Dyke also hurt the offense by combining for 16 interceptions and only 10 touchdowns. The 16 picks were the most of any Big Ten school. Things have to change. The Spartans, who scored a Big Ten-low 197 points last season, will open up things in hopes they can throw more effectively. If they can, teams won't be able to key on Duckett. Only one offensive lineman returns, so it's even more crucial that coaches vary the play-calling and formations to keep defenses guessing. At quarterback, Smoker is the likely starter after a season in which he excelled one moment and struggled the next. As Michigan State's first true freshman to start at quarterback since 1982, he threw seven interceptions and six touchdown passes. If he can't make the leap from wide-eyed freshman to experienced sophomore, the Spartans will be in trouble. Another key figure is WR Charles Rogers, an academic non-qualifier last year. The coaching staff believes he can be even better than 1999 star Plaxico Burress, who was clearly missed last fall. Rogers, who was one of the most highly recruited receivers coming out of high school, is an explosive playmaker who's 6-4, 200, and runs a 4.4 40. A former high school track star, he is faster than Burress, and some say he runs smoother, more accurate routes. He might be Michigan State's next great receiver. Duckett has his fingers crossed.

**Offensive stars:** Duckett accounted for 72 percent of Michigan State's running attack and half of its rushing touchdowns last season. But he has only begun to reach his potential. A former high school quarterback and linebacker, he split time on offense and defense as a freshman before settling in at tailback last season. There is good depth behind Duckett in Little John Flowers and Tyrell Dorch. Whoever carries the ball will benefit from the blocking of FB Dawan Moss. TE Chris Baker is a three-year starter and with 13 more receptions will become Michigan State's all-time leading pass catcher among tight ends. C Brian Ottney, huge for the position at 6-6, 308, is one of many outstanding centers in the Big Ten. Last year, he had 74 pancake blocks and graded out at 90 percent or better in nine of the 10 games he played.

**Offensive concerns:** The line. Only Ottney returns from last year's starting lineup, as Ts Tupe Peko and Matt Bonito and Gs Shaun Mason and Dave Sucura are gone. The young backups from last year might prove to be more athletic and better in the long run—last year the Spartans allowed 43 sacks, the second-highest total in the league—but for now they are unproven. T Ulish Booker might emerge as a star along with Ottney.

Redshirt freshman G William Whitticker also could be special. Quarterback also is a huge question. Smoker showed signs of being a winner last season, but he also showed signs that he isn't the answer. Van Dyke clearly isn't. Otherwise, he wouldn't have lost his job to Smoker.

Don't be surprised if the coaching staff is forced into using the dreaded rotating quarterback system. Coaches who play two quarterbacks always put a positive spin on the strategy, but there isn't one who truly likes doing it. The uneven quarterback play was one reason Michigan State ranked last in the Big Ten in third-down conversions at 31.3 percent. The only proven receivers are Herb Haygood and Marcus Waters, a big target who emerged last year after arriving from junior college. In addition to Rogers, BJ Lovett, a JC transfer, is another newcomer at wideout who could have an impact. Securing the ball is a point of emphasis for a team

## TSNumber

**17**

The sacks the Spartans had last season—the lowest total in the Big Ten. With standout DBs Renaldo

Hill and Richard Newsome gone, that number must rise considerably this season. Without an improved pass rush from players such as senior E Nick Myers, the new starters in the secondary will figure to get burned if they are forced to cover for long stretches.



that ranked 10th in the conference in turnover margin with a minus-eight.

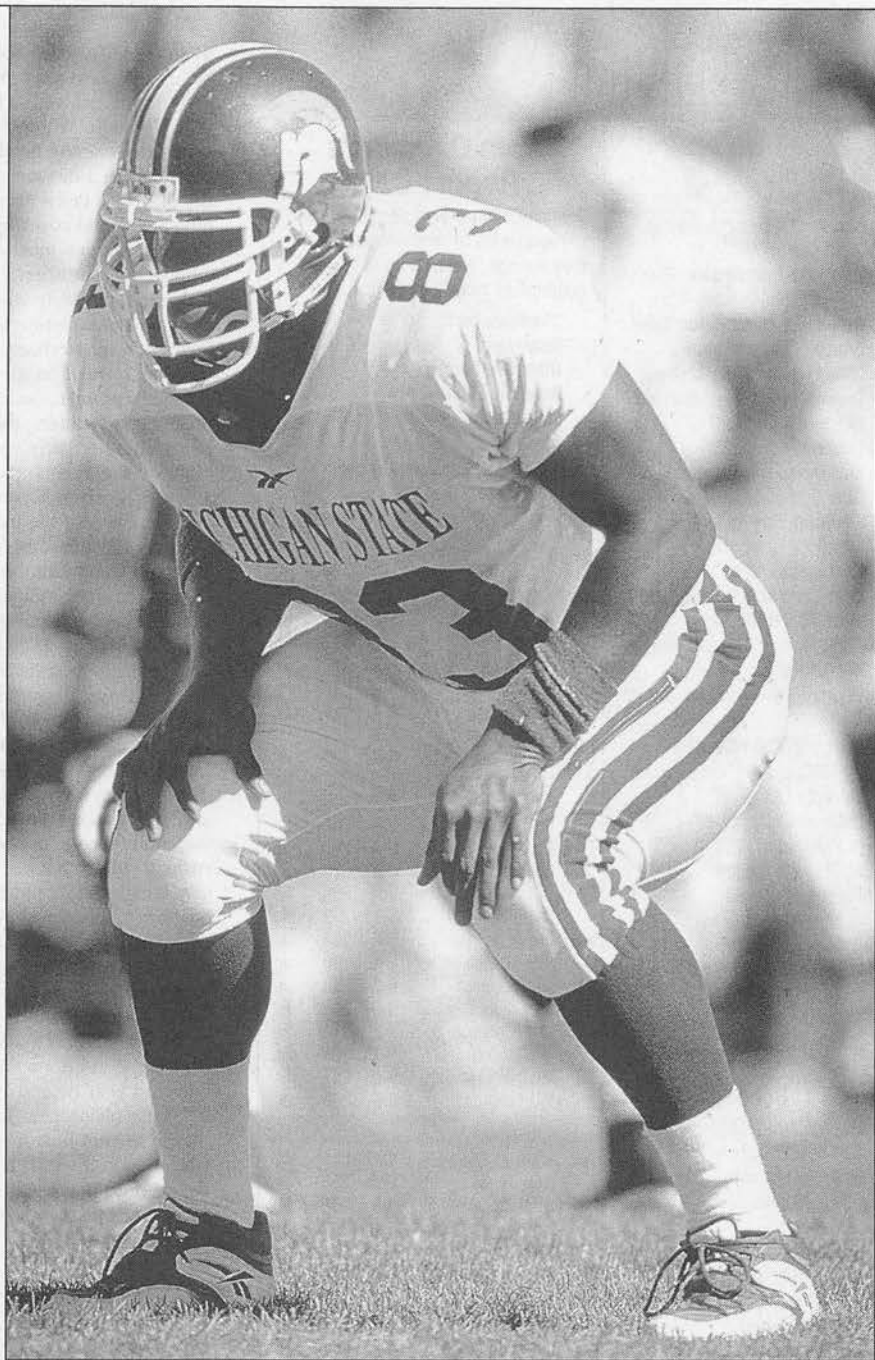
**Defensive philosophy:** Forgotten in last year's tumble was that the Spartans played outstanding defense. Michigan State uses an aggressive 4-3 scheme with active linebackers and defensive backs who know where the ball is going. The Spartans would like a better pass rush, as they are inconsistent there at best. Six starters return from last year's unit, which led the Big Ten in total defense (318.3 yards per game) and ranked seventh in the nation against the pass (164.1).

**Defensive stars:** LB Josh Thornhill, a three-year starter who had 114 tackles last season, is one of many talented linebackers the Big Ten will feature this season. He may be the best tackler in the conference. CB Cedric Henry is back as one of the league's best corners. His 24 pass deflections led the Big Ten. He also had five interceptions to rank among the conference leaders. SS Thomas Wright, one of the best in the conference at his position, made 106 stops last year, averaging 11.3 over his last six games. T Josh Shaw is one to watch up front. He can stuff the run, which is important with Jace Saylor gone.

**Defensive concerns:** MSU needs to replace two of the Big Ten's best defensive backs in cornerback and three-year starter Renaldo Hill and free safety and team MVP Richard Newsome, who led the Big Ten with an 11.1-tackle average per game. The Spartans also need a pass rush. The good news is two seniors appear ready to step up in the secondary. Lorenzo Guess, who played in nickel and dime situations last season, will play free safety. DeMario Suggs, an extra defensive back in passing situations last year, will play cornerback. He got two starts late last season. Inexperienced Greg Taplin, who's rangy but undersized, will try to give the Spartans a pass rush from right end. Michigan State ranked last in the Big Ten with 17 sacks last year. (Ohio State paced the league with 46.) Nick Myers also will be looked to for a rush. A wild card in the pass rush is converted TE Ivory McCoy, who will play outside linebacker. He could be a dynamic force on the edge.

**Special teams:** P Craig Jarrett returns for his senior season. He averaged more than 40 yards for three straight seasons, and he's a feisty character who isn't afraid to make a hit. K David Schaefer, who was inconsistent last season, also returns as a senior. After making six of his first seven field-goal attempts, he hit just five of 10 down the stretch. True freshman Dave Rayner could challenge for the job if Schaefer stumbles. Rogers should help a punt-return unit that was poor last season. Haygood is back as a kickoff returner after averaging more than 23 yards last season.

**Coaching staff:** This is a crucial season for Bobby Williams, who is entering his second season as coach. Last season's last-place finish, the school's first since 1958, was an embarrassment, but it can be forgiven considering the change in coaches from Nick Saban to Williams and the unsettled situation at quarterback. Another flop this season would mean Michigan State, which last won a share of the Big Ten title in 1990, picked the wrong man for the job. The school may have gotten caught up in the fervor of Michigan State's dramatic 37-34 win over Florida in the Citrus Bowl after the 1999 season. Williams, who is just one of five black coaches in the Division I-A ranks, had the interim



**HANDS UP:** If Michigan State is going to open up the offense as promised, Baker may have to do more catching and less blocking.

label removed from his title after that game, his head coaching debut. This offseason, one of the Spartans' best assistants got away when Ohio State hired associate head coach/secondary coach Mark Dantonio as its defensive coordinator. Troy Douglas, who was at Southern Methodist last year, steps in as secondary coach.

**Bottom line:** Ohio State is off the schedule, and Michigan and Penn State must travel to East Lansing. That helps, but a road trip to Notre Dame a week before Big Ten play begins threatens the Spartans' chances of getting the necessary six wins for bowl eligibility. If Smoker and the new faces on the offensive line fail, the Spartans are finished. If they come through and suitable replacements are found in the secondary, the Spartans could surprise. For now, consider Michigan State a borderline bowl team.



# 7 Penn State

**National rank**  
**39**

**Coach:** Joe Paterno (322-90-3, 35 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Fran Ganter (18th season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Tom Bradley (2nd season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Starters lost:** 12  
**Lettermen lost:** 25  
**Lettermen returning:** 38  
**Site:** State College, Pa.  
**Stadium:** Beaver (grass, 106,000)  
**Last league title:** 1994  
**Last bowl appearance:** 1999  
**2000 TSN rank:** 28  
**2000 record:** 5-7; Big Ten: 4-4/T5th  
**Website:** www.psu.edu/sports

## 2000 results

vs. USC, L, 29-5  
Toledo, L, 24-6  
Louisiana Tech, W, 67-7  
at Pittsburgh, L, 12-0  
at Ohio State, L, 45-6  
Purdue, W, 22-20  
at Minnesota, L, 25-16  
Illinois, W, 39-25  
at Indiana, W, 27-24  
Iowa, L, 26-23  
at Michigan, L, 33-11  
Michigan State, W, 42-23

## Schedule

### S1—Miami (Fla.)

S13—at Virginia  
S22—Wisconsin  
S29—at Iowa  
O6—Michigan  
O20—at Northwestern  
O27—Ohio State  
N3—Southern Mississippi  
N10—at Illinois  
N17—Indiana  
N24—at Michigan State

## Game of the year

### Sept. 1—Miami (Fla.)

It won't take long to get a look at what Joe Paterno has to offer this year. The Hurricanes will be the first to try out newly expanded Beaver Stadium, which grows to 106,000. Penn State fans are restless after a disheartening 2000, and JoePa will have had all summer to prepare for what could be the best Miami team since the late 1980s.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

A woeful offense is in desperate need of playmakers at receiver. But even if they emerge, it will be up to a new quarterback to deliver the ball.

**Offensive backfield:** ★  
**Receivers:** ★  
**Offensive line:** ★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★★  
**Secondary:** ★★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

Offense				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Tony Johnson	5-11	198	So.
	Ryan Scott	6-2	192	Fr.*
T	Gus Felder	6-5	316	Sr.
	Nick Marno	6-5	287	Fr.*
G	Joe Hartings	6-4	265	Sr.
	Scott Davis	6-2	282	Fr.*
C	Joe Iorio	6-3	300	Jr.
	Eric Rickenbach	6-5	288	Sr.
G	Tyler Lenda	6-3	278	Sr.
	Greg Ransom	6-2	287	Sr.
T	Matt Schmitt	6-4	290	Jr.
	Chris McKelvy	6-3	325	So.
TE	John Gilmore	6-4	258	Sr.
	Casey Williams	5-11	239	So.
WR	Bryant Johnson	6-2	203	Jr.
	Steve Delich	6-1	190	Jr.
QB	Matt Senneca	6-3	228	Jr.
	Zack Mills	6-2	205	Fr.*
RB	Larry Johnson	6-2	214	Jr.
	Eric McCoo	5-10	209	Sr.
FB	Mick Blosser	6-0	237	Sr.
	R.J. Luke	6-3	236	Jr.

## Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Bob Jones	6-5	256	Sr.
	John Bronson	6-3	261	Fr.*
T	Anthony Adams	6-0	292	Jr.
	Tim Falls	6-3	272	Jr.
T	Jimmy Kennedy	6-5	330	Jr.
	Tyler Valoczki	6-4	277	Jr.
E	Michael Haynes	6-3	263	Jr.
	Jason Robinson	6-3	263	Fr.*
OLB	Gino Capone	6-1	236	So.
	Deryck Toles	6-0	208	So.
MLB	Shamar Finney	6-2	237	Sr.
	Derek Wake	6-3	233	So.
OLB	Tom Williams	6-1	240	Sr.
	Sam Ruhe	6-5	257	So.
CB	Bryan Scott	6-2	215	Jr.
	Tom Humphrey	5-8	182	Sr.
SS	Yaacov Yisreal	5-11	198	So.
	James Millon	5-10	193	Jr.
FS	Horace Dodd	6-1	213	So.
	Sam Crenshaw	6-2	215	Sr.
CB	Bruce Branch	5-11	190	Sr.
	Richard Gardner	5-11	184	So.

## Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	David Kimball	6-2	188	So.
P	David Royer	6-3	205	Jr.

**Returning starters in bold** \* Redshirt

**Offensive philosophy:** Some things, such as Joe Paterno and Penn State's offensive philosophy, never change. The Nittany Lions want to hog the football with a strong running game, make as few mistakes as possible and play good defense. Last year, they were able to play sound defense. As for the other two components, well, they were pretty much a disaster. The shotgun formation, which was put into the playbook last season to take advantage of QB Rashard Casey's athleticism and cover up an inept line, will stay. How much it's used depends on how much the new quarterback needs it. Matt Senneca, who stepped in when the offense was ineffective last season, which was often, probably will take over. Unlike Casey, who was a playmaker as a runner, Senneca is a more traditional dropback, no-frills Penn State-style quarterback. But he's not so talented that one can assume he'll get, or hold on to, the starting job. The Nittany Lions also like redshirt freshman Zack Mills, an undersized pocket passer who won't hurt anyone running the ball. Running back is a strength, which helps. Another fairly recent change in State College has been Penn State's willingness to play one-back sets or move the tailback into the slot as a receiver. That will continue because of the team's depth at tailback. But, for the most part, expect Penn State to stick with what it has done for decades.

**Offensive stars:** The top three tailbacks return, including Eric McCoo. He has led the Nittany Lions in rushing three straight years, but his numbers and star power have fallen each season. If the line can come together, McCoo could regain his old form. Larry Johnson, a big back who last season criticized Paterno's offensive philosophy, also returns. So does Omar Easy. On the line, look for huge Gus Felder to emerge as the team's top blocker with T Kareem McKenzie gone.

**Offensive concerns:** Quarterback and offensive line are huge question marks. Senneca didn't knock anyone over last season with his talent. The line was a mess—there were eight starting combinations, including four centers—during a season in which Penn State ranked last in the conference in average time of possession (28:05) and 10th in rushing (142 yards per game) and total offense (326). If the line can stay healthy, it should be a more forceful one than last year's group. Of course, that's not saying much. C Joe Iorio had most of his season wiped out by mononucleosis. His return to form is vital. Receiver also is a concern because nobody stands out as a playmaker. No wideout caught more than 29 passes or had more than one touchdown catch last season. Drops also were a problem. Eddie Drummond, with 29 receptions and no touchdowns in 2000, is the top returning receiver. Penn State lost Tony Stewart, the second-best tight end in the conference last year behind Purdue's Tim Stratton.

**Defensive philosophy:** Tom Bradley did an outstanding job in his first season as coordinator in place of legendary assistant Jerry Sandusky, who was on the staff for 32 years before retiring after the 1999 season. After the team lost nine defensive starters from 1999, including stars LaVar Arrington and Courtney Brown, most people expected Penn State to fall apart on that side of the ball, but the defense was the team's strength in 2000. Bradley kept Sandusky's 4-3 defense and most of its schemes. But the defense was more aggressive. Bradley again has lots of challenges this year. Although six starters return, the best ones are gone. E Justin Kurpeikis and SS James Boyd will be terribly missed. In an uncharacteristically bad season in State College, those two performed like Penn State players are expected to.

**Defensive stars:** As usual, the team will produce some new standouts. T Jimmy Kennedy is a load who thrives at taking up space. He's coming off a six-sack season and is the best returning player on the team. Athletic E Michael Haynes has the potential to have a huge impact. He had six sacks last season as a pass-rushing specialist. OLB Shamar Finney is undersized but was a solid starter last season. He and

## TSNumber

**142**

Penn State's average rushing yards last season. Given how the Nittany Lions struggled to

move the ball through the air, that average didn't cut it. Nor will it this season. A few factors that hurt the ground game: The line was a patchwork outfit most of the season, the wideouts struggled to hang on to the ball and former QB Rashard Casey wasn't the most accurate passer.



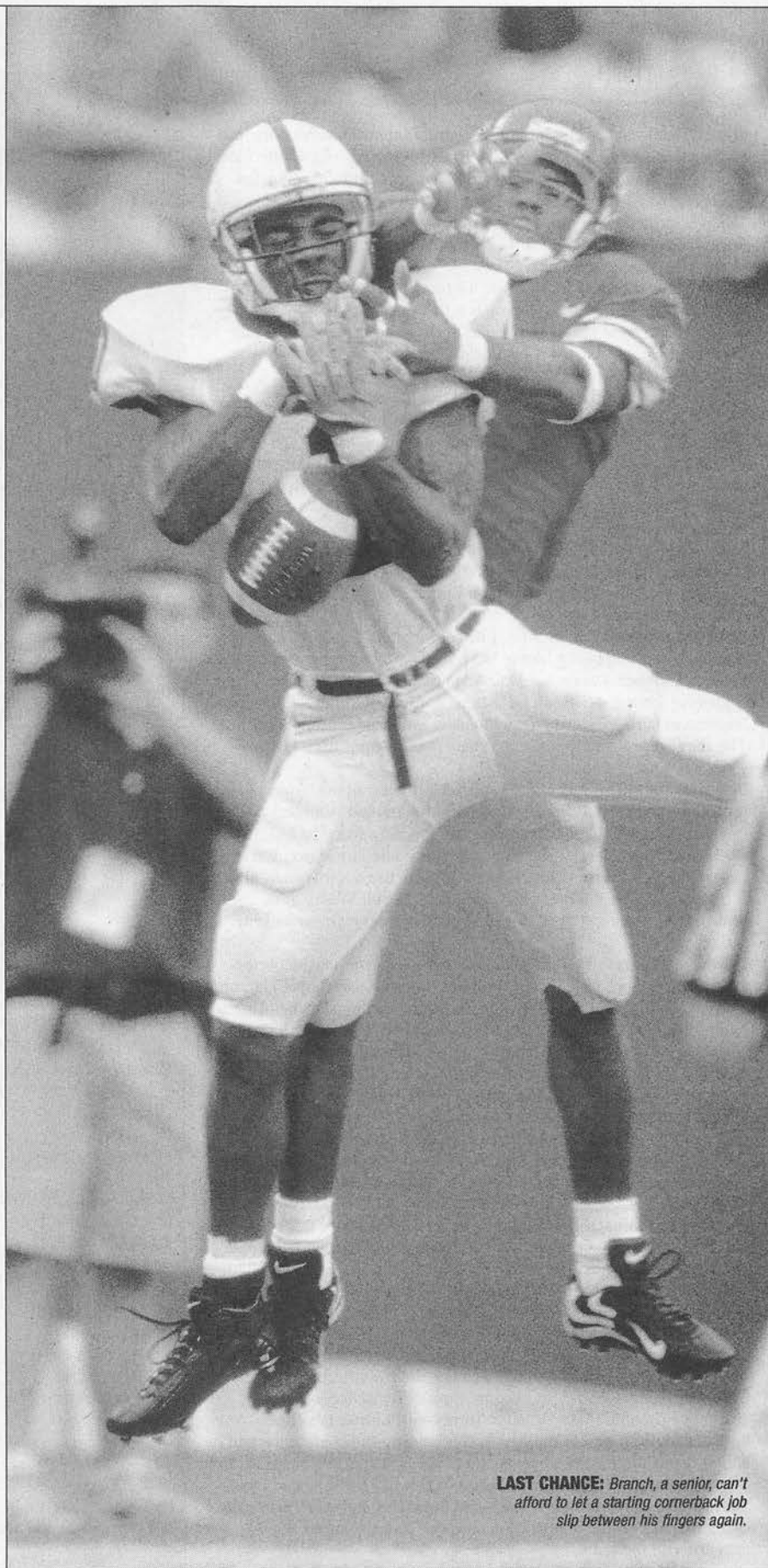
E Bob Jones, another returning starter, are the leaders on the defense. Also watch for Derek Wake, a special-teams star as a true freshman last season. He could become an outstanding outside linebacker.

**Defensive concerns:** Penn State will be holding its breath on passing downs. Three of the four starters from the secondary are gone, and in their place are players with little or no experience. Both safeties will be especially green, a potentially disastrous situation. Yaacov Yisreal has been moved from cornerback to help. Bryan Scott, who started the last five games at cornerback last year after Bruce Branch lost his job, can play safety or corner. Branch returns and probably will be forced back into the starting lineup.

**Special teams:** P David Royer returns as a junior, but he averaged fewer than 40 yards per punt last season. K Ryan Primanti is gone, but David Kimball is an interesting replacement. A highly recruited player out of State College who has an exceptionally strong leg, Kimball kicked off for the Nittany Lions last year. Penn State's punt-return unit was by far the worst in the conference, averaging 4.4 yards per return. Rod Perry and Branch will have to improve or be replaced. Johnson joins Iowa's Kahlil Hill as one of the top two kickoff returners in the Big Ten.

**Coaching staff:** Paterno needs two victories to move past Bear Bryant into first place on the Division I-A all-time coaching victories list. Despite grumbings by some players during last year's dismal 5-7 season that included a thorough whipping at home by Toledo, Paterno still knows what he's doing. He has added three new assistants, including former Maryland head coach Ron Vanderlinden, who will coach the linebackers.

**Bottom line:** Last season, Paterno experienced only his second losing season in 35 years as Penn State's coach. The last sub-.500 season was 1988, when Penn State went 5-6. The following year, Paterno went 8-3-1. But the Nittany Lions don't look a whole lot better from their 2000 product. They appear to have the least amount of proven quality players returning of any Big Ten team. Quarterback, receiver, tight end, defensive back and possibly offensive line appear to be problem areas. Then there's a brutal schedule that opens with seven bowl teams in eight weeks. Don't bet against JoePa getting the six wins necessary for a bowl bid. One has to believe he's still got a few future All-Americans up his sleeve. Then again, don't bet on his winning many more than six games. The Nittany Lions are likely to miss out on New Year's Day bowl action for the third consecutive season. The last time that happened was 1988-90. For the record, it's one Big Ten title (1994) and counting in eight years of league action. In that span, Northwestern has won three.



**LAST CHANCE:** Branch, a senior, can't afford to let a starting cornerback job slip between his fingers again.

NSI/DAVID J. PHILLIPS



# 8 Illinois

**Offensive philosophy:** The Illini were extraordinarily balanced the last two seasons and should be again. QB Kurt Kittner is one of the most experienced and efficient passers in the country. Brandon Lloyd, a gifted receiver who missed last season with a broken leg, returns. Tailback lacks depth but is loaded with experience and versatility. Rocky Harvey is small, quick and has outstanding hands. Antoinio Harris runs people over.

**Offensive stars:** Kittner has thrown 42 touchdowns and 13 interceptions the last two seasons. Harvey is a three-year starter, but Harris ran for more yards last year. C Luke Butkus, the nephew of former Illini great Dick Butkus, has his uncle's feistiness. Luke has allowed only one sack the last two seasons.

**Offensive concerns:** The Illini will have trouble replacing G Ray Redziniak, who started 40 consecutive games, and T Marques Sullivan. The good news is coach Ron Turner has 18 linemen on scholarship, double the number he inherited in 1997. LT David Diehl, who has been converted from guard, will try to protect Kittner's blind side. Also in the lineup is humongous Shawn Bubin. Redshirt freshman Patrick Babcock, who was moved to defensive line last year because of a multitude of injuries there, could see time at right guard. Replacing TE Josh Whitman will be a challenge. Also, keep an eye on any lingering effects Kittner might have from a concussion he sustained last year.

**Defensive philosophy:** Illinois fired its coordinator, Tim Kish, after a dismal season. Replacing him is Mike Cassidy, the defensive coordinator at Oklahoma State last year. Expect the Illini to be more aggressive from a 4-3 front. Of course, it also would help if players, linemen in particular, would stay healthy and academically eligible. The Illini were forced to play four true freshmen up front last season.

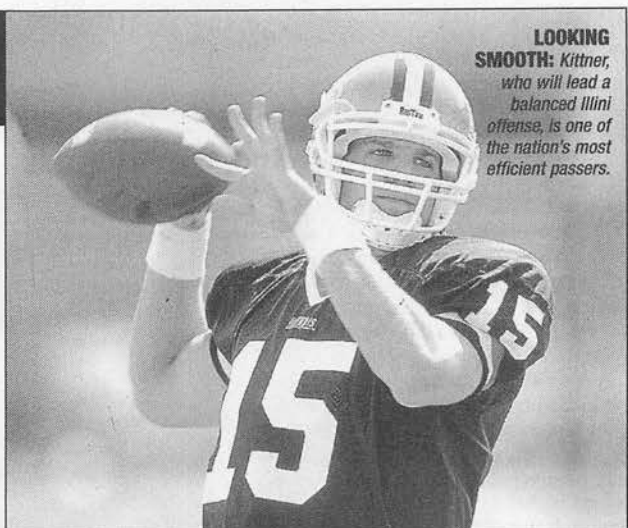
**Defensive stars:** The secondary is a strength with three starters returning. The safeties are big and fast. Muhammad Abdullah is at free safety, and Bobby Jackson is at strong safety. Marc Jackson was converted from safety to starting cornerback late last season but is back at free safety for 2001. Eugene Wilson, the other corner, also is big and may be the best of the bunch. E Terrell Washington returns after finishing with 16 tackles for loss and eight sacks last season.

**Defensive concerns:** The line situation, particularly at tackle, became an embarrassment last season. But help is on the way. Jamie Hanton, a big and burly junior college transfer, might end up starting. Also, one of those true freshmen who was abused last year (Charles Gilstrap, perhaps?) might become a player. The Illini also lost five of their top six linebackers. Jerry Schumacher, who had 104 tackles at strongside linebacker last year, probably will move to the middle.

**Special teams:** Steve Fitts returns and will focus on punting. Last year, he also tried kicking, but the plan was aborted at midseason. K JJ Tubbs is back after a successful run last year. Christian Morton, a non-academic qualifier in 1999, is a talented return man who excelled last season in limited action.

**Coaching staff:** Coach Ron Turner took a step backward last season, although the Big Ten did apologize for blowing two calls at the end of a home loss to Michigan. Had the right calls been made, the Illini would have finished 6-5 and made a bowl game. Besides Cassidy, Turner hired two other defensive coaches: Donnie Thompson, who spent the last 12 years at North Carolina, as defensive line coach, and Mike Mallory, the son of former Indiana coach Bill Mallory, as defensive backs coach. The Illini also lost their quarterbacks coach, Craig Ver Steeg, who left to become Utah's offensive coordinator. The move shouldn't hurt because Turner and Kittner are close.

**Bottom line:** With one of the best secondaries in the conference and added depth up front on defense, the Illini are expecting to return to a bowl game. It won't be easy. Illinois travels to Michigan and Ohio State. It also drops Iowa and Michigan State and picks up Wisconsin and a trip to Purdue. Illinois could surprise, but five or six wins appear to be the max.



**LOOKING SMOOTH:** Kittner, who will lead a balanced Illini offense, is one of the nation's most efficient passers.

PAUL NISSELY / TSN

## National rank 58

**Coach:** Ron Turner (16-29, 4 years; 23-33 overall, 5 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Ron Turner (5th season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Mike Cassidy (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** Pro set

**Defensive scheme:** Multiple 4-3

**Starters lost:** 9

**Lettermen lost:** 16

**Lettermen returning:** 47

**Site:** Champaign, Ill.

**Stadium:** Memorial (grass, 70,900)

**Last league title won:** 1990 (tie)

**Last bowl appearance:** 1999

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 26

**2000 record:** 5-6; Big Ten: 2-6/T9th

**Website:** www.fightingillini.com

### 2000 results

Middle Tennessee St., W, 35-6

at San Diego State, W, 49-13

California, W, 17-15

Michigan, L, 35-31

at Minnesota, L, 44-10

Iowa, W, 31-0

at Penn State, L, 39-25

at Michigan State, L, 14-10

Indiana, W, 42-35

Ohio State, L, 24-21

at Northwestern, L, 61-23

### Schedule

S1—at California

S8—Northern Illinois

S15—Louisville

S22—at Michigan

O6—Minnesota

O13—at Indiana

O20—Wisconsin

N3—at Purdue

N10—Penn State

N17—at Ohio State

N22—Northwestern

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Brandon Lloyd	6-2	180	So.
	Greg Lewis	6-0	180	Jr.
T	Sean Bubin	6-7	300	So.
	David Diehl	6-6	294	Jr.
G	Jay Kulaga	6-5	300	Sr.
	Brian Koch	6-3	280	Fr.*
C	Luke Butkus	6-4	290	Sr.
	Duke Preston	6-3	290	Fr.*
G	Patrick Babcock	6-4	295	Fr.*
	Aaron Hodges	6-5	290	So.
T	Tony Pashos	6-6	315	Jr.
	Clark Collins	6-3	285	Fr.
TE	Brian Hodges	6-4	262	Sr.
	Kenny Boyle	6-3	240	So.
WR	Dwayne Smith	6-2	195	So.
	Walter Young	6-5	218	Jr.
QB	Kurt Kittner	6-3	212	Sr.
	Dustin Ward	6-3	196	So.
RB	Rocky Harvey	5-9	183	Sr.
	Antoinio Harris	6-1	222	Jr.
FB	Carey Davis	6-0	218	So.
	Carlos Lattimore	6-1	222	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Terrell Washington	6-4	255	Sr.
	Derrick Strong	6-4	250	So.
T	Brett Kautter	6-2	275	Jr.
	Charles Gilstrap	6-3	290	So.
T	Brandon Moore	6-3	286	Sr.
	Jeff Ruffin	6-4	290	So.
E	Mike O'Brien	6-6	240	So.
	Robby Long	6-3	260	Sr.
OLB	Mario Ivy	6-3	232	Jr.
	Lamont Holden	6-3	230	Fr.*
MLB	Jerry Schumacher	6-3	235	Jr.
	Mike Gawelek	6-2	235	Fr.*
OLB	Ty Myers	6-3	230	So.
	Joe Bevis	6-0	215	So.
CB	Eugene Wilson	5-11	183	Jr.
	Nana Agyeman	6-2	196	So.
SS	Bobby Jackson	6-1	211	Sr.
	Kevin Anderson	6-2	195	Fr.*
FS	Muhammad Abdullah	6-1	202	So.
	Marc Jackson	6-1	201	Jr.
CB	Christian Morton	6-1	180	So.
	Jamaal Clark	6-2	190	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	JJ Tubbs	5-9	160	So.
P	Steve Fitts	6-0	192	Sr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 9 Minnesota

**Offensive philosophy:** The Gophers like to spread the field and run the ball. Unlike last year, Minnesota's top two quarterbacks, Travis Cole and Asad Abdul-Khalik, are experienced starters. Also, Ron Johnson is the best receiver in the conference. So it's no secret coordinator Tony Petersen wants a more vertical passing attack, especially if Jermaine Mays can improve as a receiver. However, expect the Gophers to play more conservatively than Petersen would like. The defense doesn't need a bunch of three-and-outs by the offense. Look for the Gophers to lean on 1,368-yard rusher Tellis Redmon and two mammoth tackles, Arthur Smith and Jake Kuppe.

**Offensive stars:** Johnson came close to declaring early for the NFL draft. He was wise not to, given the number of quality juniors who came out early. By coming back, Johnson sets himself up for a leap forward in next year's draft. Though he isn't the fastest receiver in the conference, he's the best. He has great hands and the best work ethic on the team. Redmon's emergence last season was a surprise. The job was supposed to belong to Thomas Tapeh, but he broke one foot before the season and the other one during the season. While Tapeh's health, and sometimes his desire, are in serious question, Redmon is a rock. He's also one of the best receiving running backs in the conference.

**Defensive concerns:** The Gophers lost their two best linemen in C Ben Hamilton and T Adam Haayer. Hamilton's longtime backup, Akeem Akinwale, has only one career start and isn't nearly the physical presence that Hamilton was. Also, the Gophers need a receiver other than Johnson to step up. Mays would be perfect because of his speed, but he runs poor routes and never adjusts to the ball. It also doesn't help the offense that Cole, who started the last eight games last year, focused on baseball during the spring.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Gophers have a new staff led by former Missouri coordinator Moe Ankney. They also have only one starter returning after CB Willie Middlebrooks and leading tackler Delvin Jones, a free safety, opted for the NFL a year early. T Maurice White, a promising redshirt freshman last season, dropped out of school, and Matt Anderle, another tackle who started last season, was moved to offensive tackle in spring practice. Ankney's philosophy is basically the same as that of former coordinator David Gibbs: Stack the line and let the corners cover.

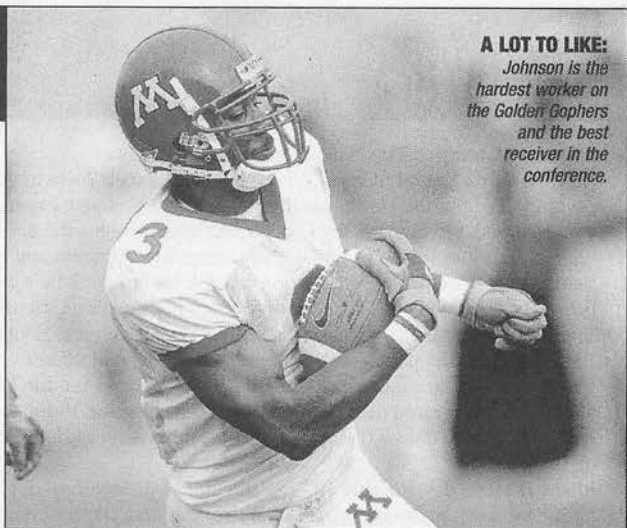
**Defensive stars:** E Greg White is ready to emerge from the shadow of Karon Riley, the Big Ten's sack leader the last two seasons. White, who missed the spring because of injury, has excellent pass-rushing skills that sometimes are as good as Riley's. CB Mike Lehan was underrated last year as a starter. He has better ball instincts than Middlebrooks.

**Defensive concerns:** There are holes everywhere as 10 starters must be replaced. FS Dominique Sims was unimpressive last year and might sit behind converted receiver Jack Brewer. The Gophers also lost four of their top five linebackers.

**Special teams:** The Gophers may have the best special teams in the conference. Junior K Dan Nystrom enters his third season as the No. 1 guy, and Preston Gruening led the nation in punting last year with a 44.4-yard average. Mays is an excellent kickoff returner, and Redmon is as good as any punt returner in the league.

**Coaching staff:** When Ohio State fired John Cooper, everyone in Minnesota expected Glen Mason to leave. Turns out, just about every coach but Mason left. Four assistants departed on their own, and two were fired. Mason's game-day decisions weren't sparking. The way he pursued the Ohio State opening rubbed a lot of people the wrong way, so Mason has bridges to mend. A losing season could be disastrous for his future in Minnesota.

**Bottom line:** The Gophers must sweep their non-conference opponents to have any chance for a school-record third straight bowl bid. Six wins will be the most they'll be able to squeeze out because their conference home games are against Purdue, Michigan State, Ohio State and Wisconsin.



**A LOT TO LIKE:** Johnson is the hardest worker on the Golden Gophers and the best receiver in the conference.

PAUL INSELY / TSN

## National Rank 59

**Coach:** Glen Mason (22-25, 4 years; 81-89 overall, 15 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Tony Petersen (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Moe Ankney (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** Pro set, primarily single back

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 8

**Lettermen lost:** 19

**Lettermen returning:** 34

**Site:** Minneapolis

**Stadium:** Metrodome (artificial turf, 64,172)

**Last league title won:** 1967 (tie)

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1998

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 38

**2000 record:** 6-6 (lost to NC State in Micronpc.com Bowl); Big Ten: 4-4/T5th

**Website:** www.gophersports.com

## 2000 Results

Louisiana-Monroe, W, 47-10

Ohio, L, 23-17

at Baylor, W, 34-9

at Purdue, L, 38-24

Illinois, W, 44-10

Penn State, W, 25-16

at Ohio State, W, 29-17

at Indiana, L, 51-43

Northwestern, L, 41-35

at Wisconsin, L, 41-20

Iowa, W, 27-24

NC State, L, 38-30

## Schedule

A31—at Toledo

S8—Louisiana-Lafayette

S15—Baylor

S29—Purdue

O6—at Illinois

O13—at Northwestern

O20—Michigan State

N3—Ohio State

N10—at Michigan

N17—at Iowa

N24—Wisconsin

## DEPTH CHART Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Ron Johnson</b>	6-3	216	Sr.
	Keith Matthews	6-2	195	So.
T	<b>Jake Kuppe</b>	6-7	338	Jr.
	Ricky Wymer	6-8	316	Fr.*
G	<b>Derek Burns</b>	6-5	277	Sr.
	Dan Gitlewski	6-6	296	So.
C	Akeem Akinwale	6-3	274	Sr.
	Mark McElroy	6-5	291	Fr.*
G	Ryan Roth	6-3	302	Sr.
	Joseph Quinn	6-4	288	So.
T	Arthur Smith	6-8	344	So.
	Matt Anderle	6-6	315	Sr.
TE	Ben Utecht	6-6	244	So.
	Rian Melander	6-6	240	Fr.
WR	<b>Elvin Jones</b>	6-3	214	Sr.
	Jermaine Mays	6-0	191	Sr.
QB	<b>Travis Cole</b>	6-3	205	Sr.
	Asad Abdul-Khalik	6-0	201	So.
RB	<b>Tellis Redmon</b>	6-0	192	Jr.
	Terry Jackson	5-11	185	Fr.*
FB	Larry Pinson	6-1	220	Fr.*
	Jason Beckum	6-0	186	Fr.*

## Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Drew Dehmick	6-3	265	Sr.
	Zach Vevea	6-4	263	Sr.
T	Dan Kwapinski	6-5	278	So.
	Timothy Ward	6-2	291	Fr.
T	Dave Sykora	6-6	288	Jr.
	Brandon Harston	6-2	311	Fr.*
E	Tony Dupree	6-2	255	Fr.*
	Eric Stenzel	6-4	253	So.
OLB	Phil Archer	6-2	228	So.
	Darrell Reid	6-3	246	Fr.*
MLB	Astein Osei	6-2	238	Sr.
	Steven Watson	6-3	218	Fr.*
OLB	<b>Jimmy Henry</b>	6-0	189	Sr.
	Paul Nixon	6-1	205	So.
CB	Mike Lehan	6-0	187	Jr.
	Justin Fraley	6-0	196	Fr.*
SS	Eli Ward	6-0	195	Sr.
	Renato Fitzpatrick	6-0	201	Jr.
FS	Jack Brewer	6-1	191	Sr.
	Dominique Sims	6-1	200	Fr.*
CB	Mackenzey Toussaint	6-0	185	So.
	Ukee Dozier	6-1	181	Fr.*

## Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Dan Nystrom</b>	5-11	205	Jr.
P	<b>Preston Gruening</b>	5-10	204	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

BIG TEN



# 10 Iowa

**Offensive philosophy:** The Hawkeyes are big admirers of Northwestern's spread offense. Who isn't? Don't expect Iowa to go to it full time, but the Hawkeyes finally might have enough experience and talent to give it a try. For the first time in years, the line doesn't enter the season as a major weakness. Kyle McCann and Jon Beutjer give Iowa two experienced quarterbacks, but don't be surprised if the coaching staff is secretly wishing junior college transfer Brad Banks wins the job. Unlike the stationary McCann and Beutjer, Banks can run and pass, which is perfect for the type of offense Iowa would like to experiment with. Last season, Banks ran for 13 touchdowns and more than 500 yards while passing for 16 touchdowns and more than 2,000 yards. He's a lot like Brooks Bollinger of Wisconsin.

**Offensive stars:** If WR Kahlil Hill can stay out of the coaches' doghouse and keep his focus, he can be one of the best players in the Big Ten at any position. RB Ladell Betts returns, having produced 2,600 career rushing yards behind a series of poor lines. With four starters back on the line this year, Betts should have his best season. Bruce Nelson, the Hawkeyes' best lineman last season, moves from guard to center.

**Offensive concerns:** The quarterbacks lost their security blanket when WR Kevin Kasper's eligibility expired. Replacing Kasper, the Big Ten leader in receptions last year, is unspectacular Chris Oliver. The Hawkeyes are so concerned about the position, they've switched DB Tim Dodge back to receiver to help out.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Hawkeyes will continue to play a 5-2. On passing downs, they'll continue hoping they get somewhere near the quarterback before the secondary is shredded, which it was often last year. DE Aaron Kampman is poised to have a career season and put heat on quarterbacks. That, coupled with the strength of the tackles, will help Iowa's style of play work better. Moving up as a starter as an end on the left side is 6-2, 300-pound Colin Cole, who will be counted on to get pressure.

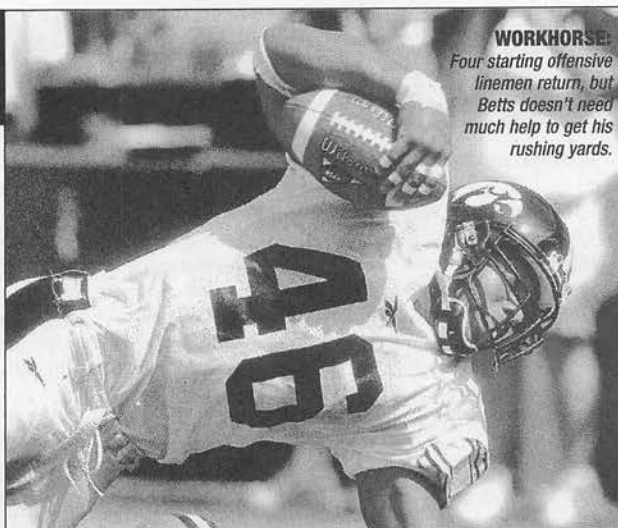
**Defensive stars:** Kampman has 246 career tackles. Jerry Montgomery, a beefy run stopper, returns at tackle and should have a fine season. Derrick Pickens, a junior college transfer last season, adds another presence inside at nose tackle.

**Defensive concerns:** The secondary was bad last season, and now it has lost its best player, FS Ryan Hansen, who had 13 passes defended and three interceptions last season. Probable replacement Chris Smith has limited experience. CB Benny Sapp, Warren Sapp's cousin, and SS Demond Sanders were thrown into the starting lineup last year as true freshmen. They should improve, but both are undersized. Sapp had a team-high 15 passes defended but did not have an interception.

**Special teams:** Hill, Oliver and Dodge all have experience returning kicks and punts. Hill is the best kick returner in the Big Ten, having averaged 27.2 yards per return with one touchdown last season. K Nate Kaeding made only 14 of 22 field-goal attempts last season. There's a huge hole to fill at punter with Jason Baker gone; Kaeding might get the job.

**Coaching staff:** Coach Kirk Ferentz's staff returns intact. Despite Ferentz's poor record, that's a good thing. The wins at Penn State and at home against Northwestern coming down the stretch last year showed Ferentz still has the players' attention and is steering them in the right direction.

**Bottom line:** It's still too early for the young Hawkeyes to make any kind of run at the upper crust of the Big Ten. They'll finish near the bottom again but could surprise some people and might sneak out five wins. A huge non-conference game is Iowa State, which has beaten the Hawkeyes three straight seasons. Despite a solid recruiting class this year, continued losses to their in-state rival can only hurt Iowa. It looks as if the Hawkeyes will miss the postseason for a fourth consecutive season. That hasn't happened since the program went bowl-less from 1959-80.



**WORKHORSE:** Four starting offensive linemen return, but Betts doesn't need much help to get his rushing yards.

DAVID J. PHILLIPS / TSN

## National Rank 76

**Coach:** Kirk Ferentz (4-19, 2 years; 16-40 overall, 5 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Ken O'Keefe (3rd season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Norm Parker (3rd season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** 5-2

**Starters lost:** 7

**Lettermen lost:** 19

**Lettermen returning:** 49

**Site:** Iowa City, Iowa

**Stadium:** Kinnick (grass, 70,397)

**Last league title won:** 1990 (tie)

**Last bowl appearance:** 1997

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 71

**2000 record:** 3-9; Big 10: 3-5/8th

**Website:**

www.hawkeyesports.com

## 2000 Results

Kansas State, L, 27-7

Western Michigan, L, 27-21

Iowa State, L, 24-14

at Nebraska, L, 42-13

at Indiana, L, 45-33

Michigan State, W, 21-16

at Illinois, L, 31-0

Ohio State, L, 38-10

Wisconsin, L, 13-7

at Penn State, W, 26-23 (OT)

Northwestern, W, 27-17

at Minnesota, L, 27-24

## Schedule

S1—Kent

S8—Miami (Ohio)

S15—at Iowa State

S29—Penn State

O6—at Purdue

O13—at Michigan State

O20—Indiana

O27—Michigan

N3—at Wisconsin

N10—at Northwestern

N17—Minnesota

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Kahlil Hill	6-3	195	Sr.
	Maurice Brown	6-2	210	So.
T	Alonzo Cunningham	6-4	305	Sr.
	David Porter	6-7	305	Sr.
G	Eric Steinbach	6-7	284	Jr.
	Andy Lightfoot	6-6	284	Jr.
C	Bruce Nelson	6-4	290	Jr.
	Pete Traynor	6-3	290	Jr.
G	Sam Aiello	6-5	310	So.
	Eric Rothwell	6-3	300	So.
T	Robert Gallery	6-7	300	So.
	Kory Borchers	6-6	290	So.
TE	Erik Jensen	6-3	259	So.
	Tony Jackson	6-3	265	Fr.*
WR	Chris Oliver	6-2	210	Sr.
	Tim Dodge	5-10	180	Sr.
QB	Kyle McCann	6-5	214	Sr.
	Jon Beutjer	6-5	200	So.
RB	Ladell Betts	5-11	215	Sr.
	Robbie Crockett	6-0	207	Sr.
FB	Jeremy Allen	6-1	240	Sr.
	Aaron Mickens	5-10	235	Fr.*

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Grant Steen	6-3	238	So.
	Jermelle Lewis	5-11	208	Fr.*
E	Colin Cole	6-2	300	Jr.
	Joseph Uselman	6-3	255	Sr.
T	Derrick Pickens	6-2	284	Sr.
	Jared Clauss	6-5	287	So.
T	Jerry Montgomery	6-3	300	Sr.
	Scott Webb	6-2	295	Jr.
E	Aaron Kampman	6-4	282	Sr.
	Howard Hodges	6-2	235	So.
LB	Fred Barr	6-2	238	Jr.
	Kevin Worthy	6-2	235	So.
OLB	Roger Meyer	6-3	244	Sr.
	Mike Dolezal	6-3	240	Sr.
CB	Matt Stockdale	5-10	188	Sr.
	Aramis Haralson	6-3	197	Fr.*
SS	Demond Sanders	5-8	194	So.
	Derek Pagel	6-1	203	Jr.
FS	Chris Smith	5-11	195	So.
	D.J. Johnson	5-10	192	Jr.
CB	Benny Sapp	5-10	181	So.
	Mikkel Brown	5-10	195	Sr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Nate Kaeding	6-0	165	So.
P	Nate Kaeding	6-0	165	So.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 11 Indiana

**Offensive philosophy:** The Hoosiers would love to move Antwaan Randle El—and those 14 interceptions he threw last season—to wide receiver and turn the quarterback position over to Tommy Jones, an inexperienced backup with a big arm and Brett Favre's build. If Jones could live up to expectations, Indiana's passing attack would grow and the Hoosiers would run more spread formations. The coaches wanted to do this last year, but an injury to Jones dashed those plans. Don't look for it to work this year. Randle El will drive defensive coordinators nuts again (and, at times, maybe his own coordinators, too) from the quarterback position. Indiana will lead the Big Ten in rushing again, but an inexperienced receiving corps could make the Hoosiers' passing attack even more primitive than it was last season.

**Offensive stars:** Randle El is the best athlete in the Big Ten. RB Levron Williams could be a star if he really wanted to. He has averaged more than 7 yards a carry in his career but too often plays soft, forgetting that he's a big man. Keep an eye on Travis Haney, a long and lean receiver from Florida. The Hoosiers love him and probably would have used him as a true freshman last year if he had made the grades.

**Offensive concerns:** The Hoosiers lost their top two receivers from the past two seasons in Versie Gaddis and Jerry Dorsey. Darin Graham, a nice third receiver, further hurt the corps by leaving early for the NFL. Only youngsters and unproven backups are back. Randle El spent his second spring practice at receiver. But as talented as he is, he's unpolished at the position. It can't be taken for granted that he'd be a reliable answer.

**Defensive philosophy:** The unit was horrendous last year under new coordinator James Bell. But he believes in his system and will stick with it, pointing to the marked improvement his Wake Forest defense made in its second season. Bell installed a 4-3 defense last year, replacing the Hoosiers' 4-6 attack that didn't work in 1999. With nine starters back, Bell is taking a chance that no major changes are necessary.

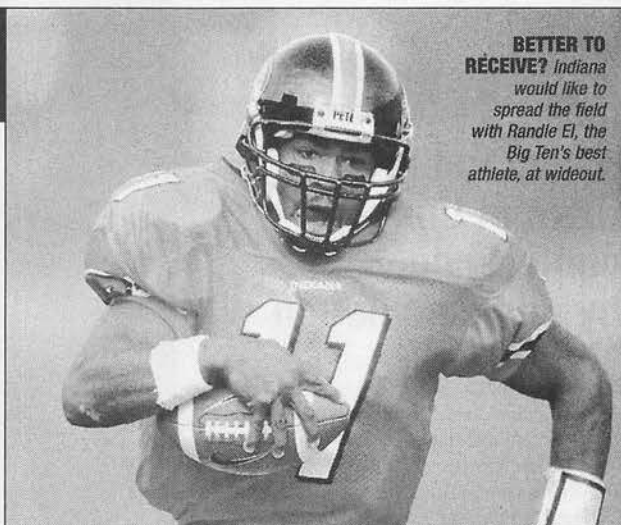
**Defensive stars:** Justin Smith is one of many quality linebackers returning in the conference. Steve Williams, who had opportunities to play at Florida State and Michigan, saw action as a true freshman and could emerge as one of the best ends in the conference.

**Defensive concerns:** The secondary was in such shambles that coach Cam Cameron decided it needed immediate help via the junior-college circuit. So he signed the best junior-college safety in the country, Antonio Watson. He took part in spring ball and will back up Joe Gonzalez. Another top junior college player, Willie Northern, also could help. So could CB Michael Hanley, a good cover guy who played as a true freshman in 1999 but sat out last season because of academics. The Hoosiers will have three, possibly four, new starters in the secondary. That's a good thing, considering the pass defense was the worst in the nation last year.

**Special teams:** If Randle El is switched to receiver, he'll also return punts and surely be one of the best in the Big Ten. P Ryan Hamre returns, but he flopped last year and was replaced by Randle El. Kicker is a question mark, but true freshman Brian Robertson set an Indiana state high school record with a 62-yard field goal last season. Adam Braucher also is a possibility.

**Coaching staff:** The hottest seat in the league belongs to Cameron. He's looking at the distinct possibility of having Randle El for four years and not having one bowl bid to show for it. Cameron won't call the plays this season. Coordinator Hal Hunter will handle that. Gerald Carr, who spent last season with the Carolina Cobras of the Arena Football League, will coach the quarterbacks, filling the void of the late Pete Schmidt.

**Bottom line:** The Hoosiers still don't have the defense to win in the Big Ten. The offense, which returns all five starters on the line, will find a way to score. But, in a repeat of last season, the defense will find a way to let the other guys score a little more. Looks like another losing season in Bloomington.



**BETTER TO RECEIVE?** Indiana would like to spread the field with Randle El, the Big Ten's best athlete, at wideout.

PAUL NISSELY/TEN

## National Rank 93

**Coach:** Cam Cameron (13-31, 4 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Hal Hunter (2nd season)

**Defensive coordinator:** James Bell (2nd season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** Multiple

**Starters lost:** 6

**Lettermen lost:** 13

**Lettermen returning:** 41

**Site:** Bloomington, Ind.

**Stadium:** Memorial (grass, 52,354)

**Last league title won:** 1967 (tie)

**Last bowl appearance:** 1993

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 70

**2000 record:** 3-8; Big Ten:

2-6/T9th

**Website:**

www.athletics.indiana.edu

## 2000 results

North Carolina State, L, 41-38

at Kentucky, L, 41-34

Cincinnati, W, 42-6

Iowa, W, 45-33

at Northwestern, L, 52-33

at Michigan, L, 58-0

Minnesota, W, 51-43

Penn State, L, 27-24

at Illinois, L, 42-35

Wisconsin, L, 43-22

at Purdue, L, 41-13

## Schedule

S8—at North Carolina State

S15—Kentucky

S22—Utah

S29—Ohio State

O6—at Wisconsin

O13—Illinois

O20—at Iowa

N3—Northwestern

N10—at Michigan State

N17—at Penn State

N24—Purdue

## DEPTH CHART Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Henry Frazier	6-1	179	Sr.
	David Lewis	6-0	174	Fr.*
T	<b>A.C. Myler</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Clay Stuart	6-5	292	Fr.*
G	<b>Anthony Oakley</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Colin Christopher	6-1	284	Jr.
C	<b>Craig Osika</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Chris Jahnke	6-5	291	Fr.*
G	<b>Enoch DeMar</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	<b>Jamarkus Gorman</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
T	<b>Bobby Brandt</b>	<b>6-7</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Brett Taylor	6-8	304	Jr.
TE	Aaron Halterman	6-5	258	Fr.*
	Stephen Anthony	6-3	260	Jr.
WR	<b>Antwaan Randle El</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Glenn Johnson	5-11	186	Jr.
QB	Tommy Jones	6-3	241	Jr.
	Gibran Hamdan	6-5	225	Jr.
RB	<b>Levron Williams</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Brian Lewis	5-8	208	Fr.*
FB	Jeremi Johnson	5-11	277	Jr.
	Rashon Myles	6-1	218	So.

## Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Derek Barnett</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Jodie Clemons	6-2	251	Fr.*
NG	<b>Kemp Rasmussen</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jamil Frink	6-2	270	Jr.
T	<b>Dominique Smith</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jason Fryar	6-8	326	Fr.*
E	Steve Williams	6-3	242	Fr.*
	Herman Fowler	6-1	260	Jr.
ILB	<b>Justin Smith</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Herana-Daze Jones	5-11	202	Fr.*
ILB	Brandon Baker	6-0	240	So.
	Robert Brown	6-1	240	So.
OLB	<b>Devin Schaffer</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Scott Genord	6-1	234	So.
CB	Michael Hanley	5-11	172	So.
	<b>Duane Stone</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>So.</b>
SS	<b>Joe Gonzalez</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Antonio Watson	6-1	194	Jr.
FS	<b>Ron Bethel</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Willie Northern	6-1	195	Jr.
CB	Sharrod Wallace	5-8	183	Sr.
	Marcus Floyd	5-9	184	Sr.

## Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Adam Braucher	5-7	195	So.
P	<b>Ryan Hamre</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>So.</b>

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

BIG TEN



# Big East

Miami is the best team in the conference, by any calculation

By MATT HAYES

Computers kept Miami from playing for the national title last year.

The Hurricanes' slogan for 2001: The Bite replaces The Byte.

Many close to the program think this is Miami's best team since 1987, when Jimmy Johnson led the Hurricanes to the national title. That's right, 1987.

In other words, better than the 1989 and 1991 teams that also won the national title. But the road to Pasadena in 2001 could be tougher than the ones any of the other Miami championship teams had to navigate.

The non-conference schedule includes road games against Penn State and Florida State and a home game against Washington. The 'Canes also play their two toughest Big East games—Virginia Tech and Pittsburgh—on the road.

All that with a new coach (Larry Coker) who was the third choice for the job behind Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez and the Miami Dolphins' Dave Wannstedt. Those 17 returning starters better be ready for one wild ride, especially considering Virginia Tech's defense is as good as any in the country and Pittsburgh is primed to finally become a factor in the league race.

The Big East, which had two teams ranked in the top six in the final polls last year for the first time in league history and two teams win 11 games, is becoming more than just a basketball conference.

**Ascending:** Pittsburgh. Walt Harris essentially chose Pittsburgh over Ohio State in January when the Buckeyes were looking for a new coach. Pittsburgh over Ohio State? Mind-boggling. But it also emphasizes the state of the Panthers after four years under Harris. Pittsburgh returns 19 starters and is loaded with playmakers on both sides of the ball. If the Panthers can beat Miami early, they'll be around in November with a shot at winning the title.

**Descending:** Temple. Right out of the conference. The Big East presidents voted in March to kick out the Owls at the end of this season. The sad truth is this: Temple can't draw fans to the worst football stadium on the planet (Veterans Stadium), and its fans don't care about any game that doesn't have a round, orange ball. That's unfortunate because Bobby Wallace is a solid coach and has the Owls competitive again.

**Dream schedule:** So you want to be a national champion? Get a schedule like Virginia Tech's. The Hokies' season includes non-conference games against Connecticut, Western



**BETTER STAY HEALTHY:** Injuries have kept Miami's Portis from showing just how good he really is.

Michigan, Central Florida and Virginia. Tech plays host to Miami, Boston College and Syracuse and travels to Pittsburgh. Considering the way the Hokies play in Blacksburg, the Pittsburgh game may be the toughest of the season.

**Nightmare schedule:** OK, so Miami's slate is brutal. But the 'Canes have talent everywhere. Syracuse's season, on the other hand, could be over by the end of September. The Orange begins the season in the Kickoff Classic against Georgia Tech, one of the ACC's top teams. In the ensuing four weeks, Syracuse gets a road trip to Tennessee and games against C-USA favorite East Carolina and SEC heavy Auburn in the Carrier Dome. Then comes the conference schedule, which includes games at the Big Three of Pittsburgh, Virginia Tech and Miami.

**Best matchup:** Miami at Pittsburgh. Time to find out just how serious Pittsburgh is about winning the conference championship. It all

sets up perfectly for the Panthers: A Thursday night national television game against the Big East favorite in new North Shore Stadium. It also helps that Pittsburgh has three cupcakes to chew on—East Tennessee State, South Florida and Alabama-Birmingham—before a game that could shape the league race.

**Ugliest matchup:** Troy State at Miami. Hasn't Miami learned yet? Division I-AA McNeese State hurt the Hurricanes' strength of schedule last year, and Troy State—in a transition year to Division I—won't help. Runner-up: Rutgers at Buffalo. Break out the dish for that one, baby. There's not a worse game in Division I in September.

**Upset of the year:** Hunt down a copy of the Galleryfurniture.com Bowl. No, really. Then check out East Carolina QB David Garrard throwing rainbow bombs over the Texas Tech secondary. Now imagine what the Pirates will do to the Orangemen in the

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



Carrier Dome. ECU did it to the Orange last year in Greenville, but winning in the dome is another story. Syracuse is desperate for playmakers in the secondary, and Garrard has the ability to escape pressure from stud DE Dwight Freney. If the Pirates can handle the freeze option, they'll win in one of the game's toughest environments.

**Bowl bound:** Maybe the question here should be Rose Bowl bound. Miami has the talent but has a tough schedule. Virginia Tech has a better defense than the boffo version of 1999 and needs new QB Grant Noel only to limit mistakes to make a run for the roses. Pittsburgh could win its way to a New Year's Day bowl, and Boston College and West Virginia should make the postseason, too. Syracuse, with a brutal schedule, will need an upset or two to get there.

**Biggest shoes to fill:** Who's up to replacing the most exciting, dangerous, dynamic college football player of the last two years? That would be Noel, Virginia Tech's third-string quarterback last season, who will replace thrill-a-minute star Michael Vick. Noel isn't the most gifted player, and by no means is he as athletic as Vick. But he'll be asked to navigate Tech's run-oriented offense through the toughest games of the season: Miami at home, Pittsburgh on the road.

**Most overrated player:** The name is intimidating, the player isn't. Temple DT Dan Klecko, son of former NFL star Joe Klecko, lacks the size and aggressiveness his old man had. His name, though, gives him pomp and publicity. Numerous others on the Temple defense—LB Taylor Suman, for starters—deserve more hype.

**Most underrated player:** If it weren't for injuries and poor timing, Miami TB Clinton Portis could be an All-American. He was just as effective as—and sometimes more dangerous than—James Jackson and Najeh Davenport the last two years, but injuries slowed his progress. It's a full backfield again at Miami with Jarrett Payton and super freshman Willis McGahee. Portis can't afford another injury or setback.

**Best coach:** Harris won seven games last year at Pittsburgh, the best school record in more than a decade. Under him, Pittsburgh has been to two bowl games in four years, which hasn't happened since the late 1980s. Harris' system is in place, and he's making inroads in recruiting the Pennsylvania/Ohio area,

plucking blue-chip players from rival Penn State in the process. Harris has become a complete coach, and he has Pittsburgh on the verge of making a national splash again.

**Best staff:** Here's a hint: It's the same as last year and the year before and the year before. Want to know why Frank Beamer is so successful? He surrounds himself with tireless, loyal assistants like defensive coordinator Bud Foster and offensive coordinator Ricky Bustle. Staff continuity also creates a strong Virginia Tech recruiting pitch and a family atmosphere that players thrive in.

**Coach on the hot seat:** There's growing anxiety in Syracuse about the direction of the program. The Orangemen are two years removed from a BCS bowl, and the pressure is on coach Paul Pasqualoni. Syracuse is 13-10 since going to the Orange Bowl after the 1998 season, but just as damaging is the sudden rise of other teams in the league (Pittsburgh, Boston College) ahead of the Orangemen.

**Best bets:** Miami will win in Blacksburg for the first time since 1992 and will win the conference title in the last week of the season. ... West Virginia sophomore LB Grant Wiley will lead the Big East in tackles and develop into the league's most dominant defensive player. ... Temple, 4-7 last season, will have a winning record in its last year of Big East play. The Owls return 19 starters and 26 senior lettermen. ... By the third week of the season, Rutgers coach Greg Schiano will regret leaving Miami so quickly. That's when the Knights will travel to Miami and take a beating. He could've been the Miami coach once Butch Davis left for the NFL.

**Odds and ends:** Boston College coach Tom O'Brien worked toward this season last year, letting then second string QB Brian St. Pierre play the first series of the second quarter in each game. St. Pierre also has started two games, and his grasp of the offense will cut transition time. ... Rich Rodriguez replaces longtime West Virginia coach Don Nehlen and does so with the leading rusher, passer, receiver and tackler from Nehlen's 30th season. ... The Big East was 4-1 in bowl games last season, the best mark of any of the Big Six BCS conferences. ... Miami's D.J. Williams, last year's consensus No.1 recruit, has moved back to linebacker from fullback and will start at the weakside spot.

## ALL-LEAGUE

FIRST TEAM				Offense		
Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.		
WR	Antonio Bryant, Pittsburgh	6-2	185	Jr.		
WR	Andre Davis, Virginia Tech	6-1	196	Sr.		
TE	Jeremy Shockey, Miami	6-6	250	Jr.		
T	Bryant McKinnie, Miami	6-9	330	Sr.		
T	Joaquin Gonzalez, Miami	6-5	290	Sr.		
G	Martin Bibla, Miami	6-4	290	Sr.		
G	Bryan Anderson, Pittsburgh	6-5	305	Jr.		
C	Dan Koppen, Boston College	6-3	288	Jr.		
QB	Ken Dorsey, Miami	6-5	210	Jr.		
RB	Lee Suggs, Virginia Tech	6-0	207	Jr.		
RB	William Green, Boston College	6-1	215	Jr.		

Defense			
E	Dwight Freney, Syracuse	6-1	250 Sr.
E	Bryan Knight, Pittsburgh	6-2	230 Sr.
T	David Pugh, Virginia Tech	6-3	271 Sr.
T	Chad Beasley, Virginia Tech	6-5	277 Sr.
LB	Gerald Hayes, Pittsburgh	6-3	240 Jr.
LB	Ben Taylor, Virginia Tech	6-2	226 Sr.
LB	Clifton Smith, Syracuse	6-2	249 Jr.
CB	Phillip Buchanan, Miami	5-11	180 Jr.
CB	Ronyell Whitaker, Virginia Tech	5-9	193 Jr.
S	Edward Reed, Miami	6-0	190 Sr.
S	Ramon Walker, Pittsburgh	6-0	195 Jr.

Specialists			
K	Carter Warley, Virginia Tech	5-11	184 So.
P	Freddie Capshaw, Miami	5-11	180 Jr.
KR	Andre Davis, Virginia Tech	6-1	196 Sr.

Players of the year			
Offense: Lee Suggs, RB, Virginia Tech			
Defense: Dwight Freney, E, Syracuse			

SECOND TEAM				Offense		
Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.		
WR	Daryl Jones, Miami	5-10	190	Sr.		
WR	Antonio Brown, West Virginia	5-10	170	Sr.		
TE	Browning Wynn, Virginia Tech	6-3	230	Sr.		
T	Khiawatha Downey, Pittsburgh	6-4	305	Jr.		
T	Marc Colombo, Boston College	6-8	303	Sr.		
G	Sean O'Connor, Syracuse	6-3	293	Sr.		
G	Joe Laudano, Temple	6-2	283	So.		
C	Brett Romberg, Miami	6-3	290	Jr.		
QB	David Priestley, Pittsburgh	6-4	205	Sr.		
RB	Avon Cobourne, West Virginia	5-9	190	Jr.		
RB	Tanardo Sharps, Temple	5-11	182	Jr.		

Defense			
E	Sean Guthrie, Boston College	6-4	248 Sr.
E	Nathaniel Adibi, Virginia Tech	6-3	242 So.
T	Jason Davis, West Virginia	6-5	275 Jr.
T	Russell Newman, Temple	6-2	274 Sr.
LB	Grant Wiley, West Virginia	6-1	225 So.
LB	Chris Campbell, Miami	6-2	230 Sr.
LB	Taylor Suman, Temple	6-2	231 Sr.
CB	Lenny Walls, Boston College	6-4	191 Sr.
CB	Mike Rumph, Miami	6-2	205 Sr.
S	Keeon Walker, Syracuse	5-10	192 Jr.
S	Willie Pile, Virginia Tech	6-3	204 Jr.

Specialists			
K	Todd Sievers, Miami	6-0	180 Jr.
P	Mark Fazzolari, West Virginia	6-0	185 Jr.
KR	Shawn Terry, West Virginia	6-3	175 Sr.

Newcomers of the year			
Offense: Kevin Jones, RB, Virginia Tech			
Defense: Vince Wilfork, T, Miami			

## UNIT RANKINGS

	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				Special Teams	Coaching
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall		
BOSTON COLLEGE	4	5	4	4	7	7	6	7	8	4
MIAMI	1	2	1	1	2	3	1	2	2	5
PITTSBURGH	3	3	3	3	4	6	3	3	4	2
RUTGERS	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	8
SYRACUSE	6	6	7	6	3	4	7	6	3	6
TEMPLE	7	7	6	7	5	5	4	5	6	3
VIRGINIA TECH	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
WEST VIRGINIA	5	4	5	5	6	2	5	4	5	7



# PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

## Offense

### Lee Suggs, RB, Virginia Tech

After Hokies quarterback Michael Vick suffered a severe ankle injury in last year's 37-34 victory over Pittsburgh, running backs coach Billy Hite challenged the rest of Virginia Tech's backfield. Lee Suggs remembers.

"He just told us that somebody was going to have to step up," Suggs recalls, "and I just figured it was going to have to be me."



Suggs certainly got to steppin'—as in all over the opposition. He went on to a record-setting sophomore season and emerged as Virginia Tech's next offensive supernova. He rushed for 1,207 yards on 222 carries and scored 28 touchdowns, excluding the three he had in the Hokies' 41-20 demolition of Clemson in the Gator Bowl. Suggs, as a result, set Big East single-season records for rushing touchdowns (27, including five in a 44-21 romp at Central Florida), total touchdowns and points scored (168).

"When you score that many touchdowns and lead the nation, that's really

mind-boggling," says Suggs, who averaged 15.3 points, leading the country.

"There's a whole lot of running backs and other scorers in the nation, but to see your name at the top of that list, it's just ... incredible."

Of all his scores last season, which ranked as his most memorable? "I'd probably say the UVA game when I caught one," says Suggs. "It was my only receiving touchdown of the year. The pocket collapsed, and Mike rolled out and he hit me down the field. I like getting a handoff and running down the field for a touchdown, but I like catching 'em, too."

This season, Suggs will be looked upon as Tech's next playmaker. With Vick gone two years early to the NFL, it will be up to Suggs to help carry the burden for an offense that will start a new quarterback and replace four starters on the line.

"I'm just going to try and work on my blocking—run blocking and pass blocking," Suggs says. "I'm also going to work on catching the ball out of the backfield and becoming a better receiver. But, mostly, I'm just going to focus on doing my job and running the ball." —Michael Vega

## Defense

### Dwight Freeney, E, Syracuse

Dwight Freeney says it has happened too many times before in his career.

"Some type of injury," he explains. "Some type of crazy, freak injury that has ended my season."

As a sophomore, it was a torn tendon in the middle finger of his right hand. Then, last year as a junior, it was a lacerated spleen suffered in a wrenching 22-14 loss to Virginia Tech that forced him to sit out the last four games.

"That was tough having to sit on the sidelines and watch those games," Freeney says.

But his teammates soon felt his pain as well when the Orangemen were relegated to postseason spectators despite a 6-5 record.

Now 100 percent, Freeney is hoping to get through the season in one piece. If he does, it will bolster Syracuse's 4-3 defense with a solid pass rusher off the corner. Freeney distinguished himself as such last season, when he led the Big East in sacks with 12, setting a Syracuse single-game record with 4½ sacks against Virginia Tech.

So, when the Orangemen open the season by playing Georgia Tech in the Kickoff Classic, Freeney, who will be one of the nation's leading candidates for the Lombardi, Bednarik and Nagurski Awards, will be motivated by one thing.

"I've just got to play like it's my last game and play each play like it's my last play, because you never know when it's going to be taken away from you," he says. "I'm just going to try and make an impression on everyone and just help my team by staying healthy." —M.V.



# 2000 INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

## RUSHING returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Lee Suggs, Virginia Tech, So.	10	222	1,207	5.4	27	109.7
2. William Green, Boston College, So.	11	187	1,164	6.2	14	105.8
3. Kevin Barlow, Pittsburgh, Sr.	11	197	1,053	5.4	8	95.7
4. Tanardo Sharps, Temple, So.	11	201	1,038	5.2	10	94.4
5. Dee Brown, Syracuse, Sr.	11	172	1,031	6.0	90	93.7
6. James Jackson, Miami, Sr.	11	201	1,006	5.0	11	91.5
7. Avon Cobourne, West Virginia, So.	9	197	893	4.5	6	99.2
8. James Munro, Syracuse, Jr.	10	115	797	6.9	7	79.7
9. Cedric Washington, Boston College, Sr.	10	152	676	4.5	5	67.6
10. Michael Vick, Virginia Tech, So.	10	104	617	5.9	8	61.7

## PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Rating
1. Ken Dorsey, Miami, So.	11	322	188	.584	5	2,737	8.5	25	152.3
2. Mike McMahon, Rutgers, Sr.	10	340	169	.497	17	2,157	6.3	18	110.5
3. John Turman, Pittsburgh, Sr.	11	233	128	.549	7	2,135	9.2	18	151.4
4. Tim Hasselbeck, Boston Coll., Sr.	10	229	124	.542	9	1,810	7.9	16	135.7
5. Brad Lewis, West Virginia, Jr.	10	223	108	.484	7	1,501	6.7	8	110.5
6. Devin Scott, Temple, Jr.	11	216	136	.630	7	1,456	6.7	5	120.7
7. Troy Nunes, Syracuse, So.	11	154	94	.610	14	1,366	8.9	8	134.5
8. Michael Vick, Virginia Tech, So.	10	161	87	.540	6	1,234	7.7	8	127.4
9. David Priestley, Pittsburgh, Jr.	11	103	57	.553	4	829	8.1	5	131.2
10. Scott McBrien, W. Virginia, Fr.	10	99	42	.424	3	755	7.6	3	110.4

## RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Antonio Bryant, Pittsburgh, So.	10	68	1,302	11	6.8	19.2
2. Reggie Wayne, Miami, Sr.	11	43	755	10	3.9	17.6
3. Santana Moss, Miami, Sr.	11	45	748	5	4.1	16.6
4. Antonio Brown, West Virginia, Jr.	11	45	721	1	4.1	16.0
5. Khori Ivy, West Virginia, Sr.	11	41	707	5	3.7	17.2
6. Dedrick Dewalt, Boston College, Jr.	10	38	676	8	3.8	17.8
7. Latef Grim, Pittsburgh, Sr.	11	39	595	2	3.6	15.3
8. Emmett Johnson, Virginia Tech, Jr.	11	34	574	3	3.1	16.9
9. Errol Johnson, Rutgers, Sr.	11	46	555	5	4.2	12.1
10. Greg Muckerson, Temple, Jr.	10	41	487	2	4.1	11.9

# TEAM STATISTICS

## OFFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Virginia Tech (5)	270.5	1. Pittsburgh (18)	269.5	1. Miami (5)	460.8
2. Syracuse (18)	207.2	2. Miami (22)	266.0	2. Virginia Tech (20)	426.4
3. Boston College (20)	201.0	3. Rutgers (39)	228.9	3. Boston College (29)	414.9
4. Miami (23)	194.8	4. Boston College (57)	213.9	4. Pittsburgh (39)	399.1
5. West Virginia (64)	140.8	5. West Virginia (66)	207.5	5. Syracuse (52)	378.2
6. Temple (74)	130.5	6. Temple (85)	179.6	6. West Virginia (73)	348.3
7. Pittsburgh (76)	129.6	7. Syracuse (92)	171.0	7. Rutgers (82)	334.5
8. Rutgers (94)	105.6	8. Virginia Tech (100)	155.9	8. Temple (99)	310.1

## DEFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Virginia Tech (16)	99.3	1. Boston College (8)	168.2	1. Syracuse (18)	311.9
2. Pittsburgh (17)	99.7	2. Syracuse (12)	176.1	2. Virginia Tech (27)	323.6
3. Miami (26)	112.7	3. Temple (28)	196.6	3. Pittsburgh (29)	325.7
4. Syracuse (42)	135.8	4. Rutgers (32)	201.2	4. Temple (33)	333.3
5. Temple (43)	136.7	5. Miami (70)	220.6	5. Miami (34)	333.4
6. West Virginia (53)	146.5	6. Virginia Tech (77)	224.4	6. West Virginia (69)	379.5
7. Boston College (107)	212.5	7. Pittsburgh (80)	226.0	7. Boston College (73)	380.7
8. Rutgers (111)	222.2	8. West Virginia (89)	233.0	8. Rutgers (100)	423.4

Statistics do not include bowl games



# 1 Miami

## National Rank

### 3

**Coach:** Larry Coker (1st year)

**Offensive coordinator:** Rob Chudzinski (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Randy Shannon (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** Pro set

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 8

**Lettermen lost:** 17

**Lettermen returning:** 47

**Site:** Miami

**Stadium:** Orange Bowl (grass, 74,476)

**Last league title won:** 2000

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1997

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 6

**2000 record:** 11-1 (beat

Florida in Sugar Bowl);

**Big East:** 7-0/1st

**Website:**

www.hurricanesports.com

### 2000 Results

McNeese State, W, 61-14

at Washington, L, 34-29

at West Virginia, W, 47-10

at Rutgers, W, 64-6

Florida State, W, 27-24

at Temple, W, 45-17

Louisiana Tech, W, 42-31

Virginia Tech, W, 41-21

Pittsburgh, W, 35-7

at Syracuse, W, 26-0

Boston College, W, 52-6

Florida, W, 37-20

### Schedule

S1—at Penn State

S8—Rutgers

**S15—Washington**

S27—at Pittsburgh

O6—Troy State

O13—at Florida State

O25—West Virginia

N3—Temple

N10—at Boston College

N17—Syracuse

D1—at Virginia Tech

## Game of the year

**Sept. 15—Washington**

While the trips to Penn State and Florida State will be huge, Miami's key game will be in the friendly confines of the Orange Bowl against Washington. The Hurricanes want to avenge last year's 34-29 loss to the Huskies, a defeat that cost Miami a chance to play for the national title. The loss at Seattle was UM's only setback last season.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The points will come in bunches as long as some receivers develop. After some fine-tuning, the front seven should hum.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★★★

**Receivers:** ★★

**Offensive line:** ★★★★★

**Defensive line:** ★★★

**Linebackers:** ★★

**Secondary:** ★★★★★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Daryl Jones	5-10	190	Sr.
	Kevin Beard	6-2	182	So.
T	<b>Bryant McKinnie</b>	<b>6-9</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Carlos Joseph	6-6	322	Fr.*
G	Sherko Haji-Rasouli	6-6	326	Jr.
	Ed Wilkins	6-4	310	Jr.
C	<b>Brett Romberg</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Scott Puckett	6-3	290	Sr.
G	<b>Martin Bibla</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Vernon Carey	6-5	363	So.
T	<b>Joaquin Gonzalez</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Joe Fantigrassi	6-4	270	Jr.
TE	Jeremy Shockey	6-6	250	Jr.
	Robert Williams	6-4	240	Sr.
WR	Andre Johnson	6-3	200	So.
	Ethnic Sands	6-0	177	Jr.
QB	<b>Ken Dorsey</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Derrick Crudup	6-1	210	Fr.*
RB	Clinton Portis	5-10	190	Jr.
	Willis McGahee	6-1	225	Fr.*
FB	<b>Najeh Davenport</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Kyle Cobia	6-2	231	Fr.*

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Cornelius Green</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jerome McDougle	6-3	260	Jr.
T	Matt Walters	6-5	263	Jr.
	Vince Wilfork	6-2	230	Fr.
T	<b>William Joseph</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Santonio Thomas	6-4	296	So.
E	<b>Jamaal Green</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Andrew Williams	6-4	260	Jr.
OLB	D.J. Williams	6-2	244	So.
	Darrell McClover	6-2	215	So.
MLB	<b>Howard Clark</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Jonathan Vilma	6-2	211	So.
OLB	<b>Chris Campbell</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jarrell Weaver	6-3	203	So.
CB	<b>Mike Rumph</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Alphonso Marshall	6-1	182	So.
SS	<b>Edward Reed</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	James Scott	6-2	195	Jr.
FS	James Lewis	5-11	195	Sr.
	Maurice Sykes	5-11	194	So.
CB	<b>Phillip Buchanan</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Markese Fitzgerald	5-11	186	Sr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Todd Sievers</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
P	<b>Freddie Capshaw</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** Miami's entire program seemed to be in a state of flux when former coach Butch Davis defected to the NFL to take over the Browns. But school officials moved quickly to stabilize the situation by selecting offensive coordinator Larry Coker as Miami's 19th coach. Coker, in turn, selected former Miami TE Rob Chudzinski, 32, to take over as offensive coordinator. The move guaranteed the Hurricanes would not be switching offenses. Miami will stick with its tried-and-true pro set scheme that emphasizes balancing a strong running game with an opportunistic passing attack.

**Offensive stars:** Though there will be a new coach, it's steady as she goes for QB Ken Dorsey who will be at the controls of a potent offense that returns eight offensive starters from last season's Sugar Bowl champions. Dorsey, a candidate for the Davey O'Brien and Johnny Unitas awards, will return as a seasoned junior after a sophomore campaign in which he threw for 2,727 yards and 25 touchdowns in his first full year as the starting quarterback. Most impressive were Dorsey's poise, intelligence and keen decision-making abilities, evidenced by the five interceptions he threw. TE Jeremy Shockey is a large, surehanded target, but Dorsey will be without his top two receivers from a year ago—Santana Moss and Reggie Wayne. There still is plenty of talent with which to stretch the field with the return of senior Daryl Jones, who largely was overshadowed by Moss, Wayne and Andre King but now will have the chance to grab the spotlight. The conversion of the athletic Ethnic Sands from quarterback to receiver left redshirt freshman Derrick Crudup to gain considerable experience in the spring as Dorsey's backup after T.J. Prunty decided to forgo football and focus on his baseball career. All-American Ts Joaquin Gonzalez and Bryant McKinnie, regarded by many to be a can't-miss NFL prospect, will anchor a physical offensive line. They will be expected to provide Dorsey with bulletproof pocket protection and plow wide running lanes for RBs Clinton Portis, the team's No. 2 rusher last season (485 yards), and senior Najeh Davenport, a bullish 6-2, 235-pounder who has the speed, power and versatility to play either tailback or fullback. The backfield will be bolstered by the addition of sophomore Jarrett Payton, who redshirted last season, and redshirt freshman Willis McGahee, who will be pushing for playing time.

**Offensive concerns:** The first and foremost concern is finding a capable backup to Dorsey. The Hurricanes can't afford to go into the season with an unproven understudy, but that is the risk they will have to take if Coker decides to go with either Crudup, an enormous talent who still isn't primed to take over, or junior Troy Pasek, who saw limited action in three games last season. Then there is the matter of Dorsey's timing with the new receivers. It can be disruptive to an offense if the passing game is not running smoothly, which could force Miami to become one-dimensional by relying strictly on its potent running game.

**Defensive philosophy:** When Greg Schiano left as Miami's defensive coordinator to take over the head job at Rutgers, it followed other key departures from the Hurricanes' defense. Miami also lost highly decorated LB Dan Morgan, SS Al Blades, and DT Damione Lewis. But Coker kept the search for Schiano's successor in town by hiring Dolphins assistant Randy Shannon as defensive coordinator. Shannon will maintain the team's 4-3 scheme that is predicated on aggressive play at the line of scrimmage and all-out pursuit of the ball.

**Defensive stars:** SS Edward Reed, a Thorpe Award candidate who received first-team All-American honors, has great field vision and an awareness of the ball. Reed's biggest contribution will be his leadership to a defense that lost three key players in Lewis, Morgan and Blades. He will be surrounded by talented CBs Mike Rumph, a rangy player with solid coverage skills, and Phillip Buchanan, another outstanding cover man who is the secondary's star in waiting. That will

## TSNumber

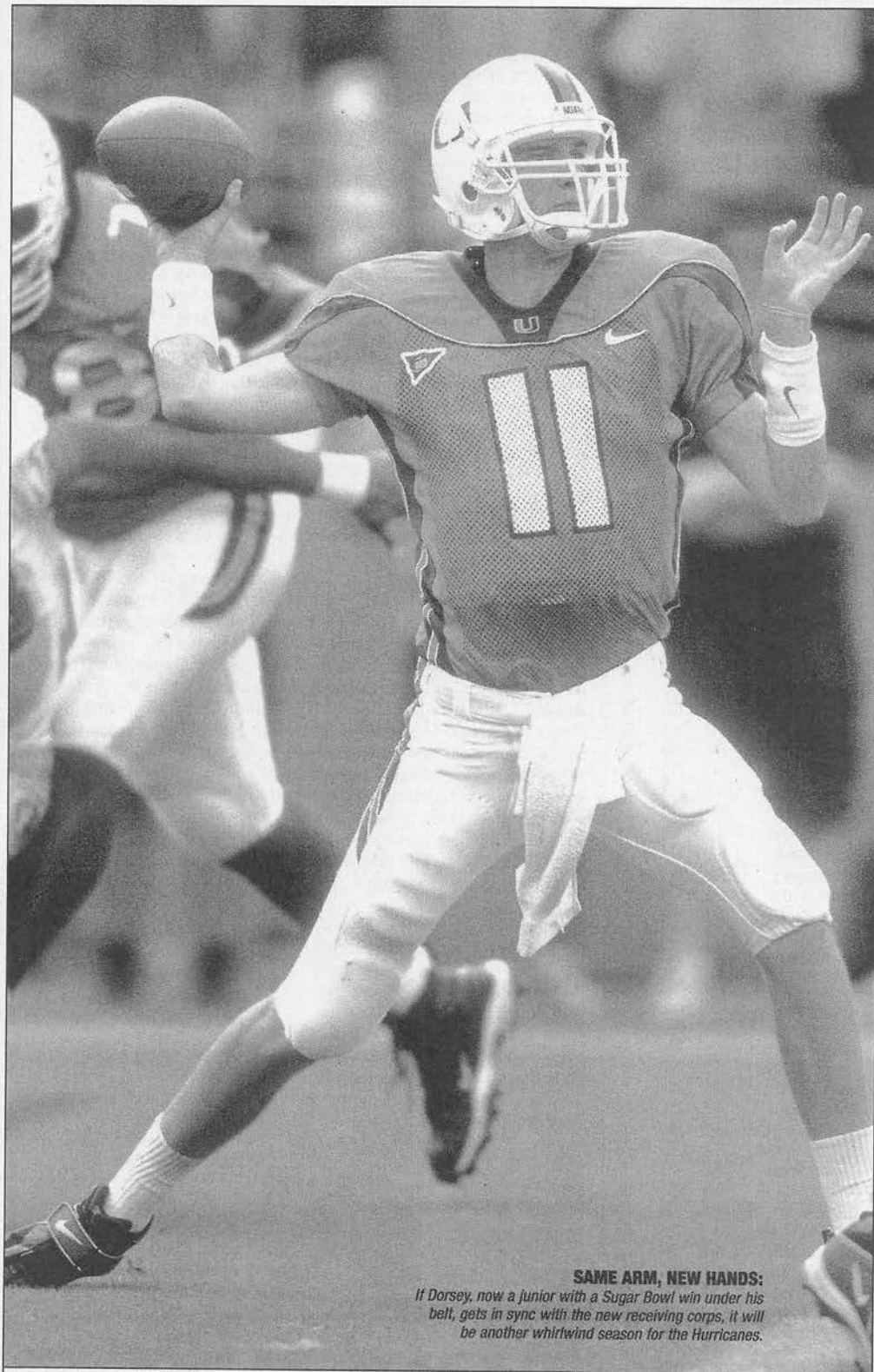
# 5

The interceptions Ken Dorsey threw last season. Multiply that by five, and you have the number of touchdowns

passes (25) he threw. If Dorsey can duplicate that effort (188-for-322, 2,727 yards, 152.3 efficiency rating), he will alleviate some worries about Miami's passing attack. Then again, it will help if receivers such as Daryl Jones and Andre Johnson step up and make plays.

BIG EAST



**SAME ARM, NEW HANDS:**

*If Dorsey, now a junior with a Sugar Bowl win under his belt, gets in sync with the new receiving corps, it will be another whirlwind season for the Hurricanes.*

make it difficult for the opposition to go deep against the Hurricanes. Miami's ability to generate pressure up the middle and off the edges from its front seven will not be compromised by the losses of Morgan and Lewis. There remains plenty of talent at both spots to execute the scheme. DTs William Joseph and Vince Wilfork are strong against the run and explosive enough off the snap to cause havoc with their pass rush. DEs Cornelius Green and Jamaal Green (no relation) are seasoned and swift bookends

who combined for seven sacks last season. Though OLBs Chris Campbell and Howard Clark have proved to be versatile performers capable of stretching out the run and dropping off into pass coverage, Morgan's departure leaves a huge void in the middle, where LB Jonathan Vilma appears to be the heir apparent. Vilma will have his hands full, however, fighting off sophomore D.J. Williams, who was moved to his true position of linebacker after playing last season as a fullback.

**Defensive concerns:** When a team loses three key starters and its defensive coordinator, the most pressing concern is finding team leaders. Reed appears ready to transition into that role, but will it detract from his other on-field responsibilities? He didn't have to worry about keeping a team together with Blades, Morgan and Lewis around. Then there is the addition of the talented Williams to the linebacking corps. Linebacker was where he was meant to play all along, but when it became apparent last season that he was not about to unseat Morgan, Davis switched Williams to fullback in an attempt to put another great athlete on the field. The time Williams spent experimenting with the offense might have been better spent learning Miami's defense and getting familiar with the calls.

**Special teams:** Moss was a dangerous return man, and replacing him will take a committee of players. The rest of Miami's kicking game appears to be on solid footing with the return of P Freddie Capshaw, an All-Big East first-team selection, and K Todd Sievers, who demonstrated his range and accuracy in converting 11 of 16 field-goal attempts and 52 of 58 extra-point tries last season.

**Coaching staff:** Davis' stunning departure could not have been more ill-timed, as it came a week before signing day for letters of intent. Miami was on the brink of a precipi-

tous drop until Coker's hiring stabilized the situation. Coker's promotion of Chudzinski to offensive coordinator and the hiring of Shannon from the Dolphins brought tranquility to the tempest.

**Bottom line:** Coker knows what he has. Davis didn't exactly leave the cupboard bare when he left. If Coker can sort out the situation at receiver and develop some talent, the offense will be balanced enough and the defense will be strong enough to make another run at the conference and national championship.



# 2 Virginia Tech

**National Rank**  
**6**

**Coach:** Frank Beamer  
(99-61-2, 14 years; 141-84-4 overall, 20 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Rickey Bustle (8th season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Bud Foster (3rd season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 7

**Lettermen lost:** 19

**Lettermen returning:** 43

**Site:** Blacksburg, Va.

**Stadium:** Lane (grass, 51,620)

**Last league title won:** 1999

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1992

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 13

**2000 record:** 11-1 (beat

Clemson in Gator Bowl);

Big East: 6-1/2nd

**Website:** www.hokiesports.com

## 2000 Results

Akron, W, 52-23

at East Carolina, W, 45-28

Rutgers, W, 49-0

at Boston College, W, 48-34

Temple, W, 35-13

West Virginia, W, 48-20

at Syracuse, W, 22-14

Pittsburgh, W, 37-34

at Miami (Fla.), L, 21-14

at Central Florida, W, 44-21

Virginia, W, 42-21

Clemson, W, 41-20

## Schedule

S1—Connecticut

S8—Western Michigan

S22—at Rutgers

S29—Central Florida

O6—at West Virginia

O13—Boston College

O27—Syracuse

N3—at Pittsburgh

N10—at Temple

N17—at Virginia

D1—Miami (Fla.)

## Game of the year

### Dec. 1—Miami

The Hurricanes will visit Tech in the season finale. If everything falls into place for both teams, this game could have Big East and national championship implications. Virginia Tech hasn't lost to UM at home since 1992, and has given up just 42 points over the last three games against the Hurricanes at Lane Stadium.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The new quarterback will have plenty of toys to play with. And the defense looks like it has as many teeth as the 1999 unit.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★

**Receivers:** ★★★★★

**Offensive line:** ★★

**Defensive line:** ★★★★★

**Linebackers:** ★★★★★

**Secondary:** ★★★★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Emmett Johnson</b>	6-3	205	Sr.
	Shawn Witten	6-0	190	Jr.
T	Anthony Davis	6-4	321	Jr.
	Tim Selmon	6-5	274	Jr.
G	Jacob Gibson	6-4	293	So.
	Anthony Nelson	6-4	307	So.
C	<b>Steve DeMasi</b>	6-3	277	Sr.
	Jake Grove	6-3	278	So.
G	Luke Owens	6-3	315	Jr.
	Robert Ramsey	6-2	288	Fr.*
T	Matt Wineck	6-5	283	Sr.
	Jon Dunn	6-6	294	Fr.*
TE	<b>Browning Wynn</b>	6-3	230	Sr.
	Bob Slowikowski	6-5	246	Sr.
WR	<b>Andre Davis</b>	6-1	196	Sr.
	Ernest Wilford	6-5	211	So.
QB	Grant Noel	6-1	215	Jr.
	Jason Davis	6-2	185	Fr.*
RB	<b>Lee Suggs</b>	6-0	207	Jr.
	Wayne Ward	5-11	209	Sr.
FB	<b>Jarrett Ferguson</b>	5-9	217	Sr.
	Wayne Briggs	5-10	236	Sr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Lamar Cobb</b>	6-2	224	Jr.
	Col Colas	6-0	226	So.
T	<b>Chad Beasley</b>	6-5	277	Sr.
	Dan Wilkinson	6-1	260	Sr.
T	<b>David Pugh</b>	6-3	271	Sr.
	Channing Reed	6-2	293	Sr.
E	<b>Nathaniel Adibi</b>	6-3	242	So.
	Jim Davis	6-4	236	So.
LB	T.J. Jackson	6-1	208	Jr.
	Deon Provitt	6-1	209	So.
LB	<b>Jake Houseright</b>	6-3	237	Sr.
	Brian Welch	6-0	240	Sr.
LB	<b>Ben Taylor</b>	6-2	226	Sr.
	Vegas Robinson	6-0	227	So.
CB	<b>Ronyell Whitaker</b>	5-9	193	Jr.
	Billy Hardee	5-11	196	Jr.
FS	<b>Willie Pile</b>	6-3	204	Jr.
	Vincent Fuller	6-2	170	Fr.*
SS	Kevin McCadam	6-1	208	Sr.
	Michael Crawford	5-11	194	So.
CB	<b>Larry Austin</b>	5-9	184	Sr.
	Eric Green	5-11	177	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Carter Warley</b>	5-11	184	So.
P	<b>Robert Peaslee</b>	6-0	188	So.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** It seemed the objective of Virginia Tech's multiple offense was simply to put the ball in the hands of QB Michael Vick and let him weave his magic. With Vick off to the NFL it would appear the Hokies have lost their biggest offensive threat. Or have they? When Vick went down with a sprained ankle against Pittsburgh and missed two of the last three regular-season games, RB Lee Suggs emerged as Virginia Tech's offensive heir apparent. Now, it would seem, the objective of the Hokies' scheme will be to hand off the ball to Suggs as often as possible and let him weave his magic by breaking down defenses with his speed on the perimeter.

**Offensive stars:** Though Vick's departure leaves the Hokies without their biggest marquee name, Virginia Tech won't necessarily be devoid of talent. In fact, more is on the way in the form of incoming freshmen Kevin Jones, considered one of the nation's top running back prospects, and Bryan Randall, who became the first quarterback in Virginia high school history to rush for 1,000 yards and pass for 1,000 yards in the same season. They won't have to be pressed into action early because there is Suggs, a runner of considerable talent who set no fewer than five conference records last season and likely will go down in Hokies history as one of the school's best. He will be paired with powerful FB Jarrett Ferguson to give the Hokies' backfield a formidable 1-2 punch. Then there are WRs Andre Davis and Emmett Johnson, a pair of sleek

speedsters who are capable of turning a quick hitch into a quick touchdown at any given time. Collectively, just as Vick did, they make it difficult for defensive coordinators to key on any one area. The transition from life with Vick to life without him could be compromised by the overhaul of an offensive line that returns just one starter, C Steve DeMasi.

**Offensive concerns:** Now that Vick's gone, who, exactly, will be making the handoffs to Suggs? It won't be Dave Meyer, a veteran who ably backed up Vick. He,

too, is gone. That leaves Grant Noel, a junior who has played sparingly the past two seasons whose task now will be to operate the offense at a smooth hum and to remain healthy. If he goes down, then the Hokies will have to turn to Jason Davis, a talented redshirt freshman with no game experience who completed a crash course on Tech's offense in the spring. Offensive line coach Bryan Stinespring probably will face the toughest job on the staff this fall in trying to mold a cohesive unit out of a young and inexperienced group. If the line struggles, it could have repercussions with blocking assignments and pass protection that could disrupt the offensive rhythm.

**Defensive philosophy:** The focus of Bud Foster's eight-man scheme is to outnumber the offense at the point of attack, sometimes gambling in the coverages by isolating the corners. But the Hokies come after you in waves and are adept at swarming the ball, collapsing the pocket, forcing turnovers and converting them into points.

**Defensive stars:** The Hokies will have the depth, experience and talent to fashion another championship-caliber defense with the return of nine starters from last year's 11-1 Gator Bowl squad. LBs Ben Taylor and Jake Houseright, who ranked first and second, respectively, in tackles with a combined 178, are a solid pair of run stoppers who anchor the front seven. Es Nathaniel Adibi and Lamar Cobb are active pass rushers who combined for 10 sacks. Ts David Pugh and Chad Beasley will bolster the interior of the front with their solid play. The front seven looks

## TSNumber

**100**

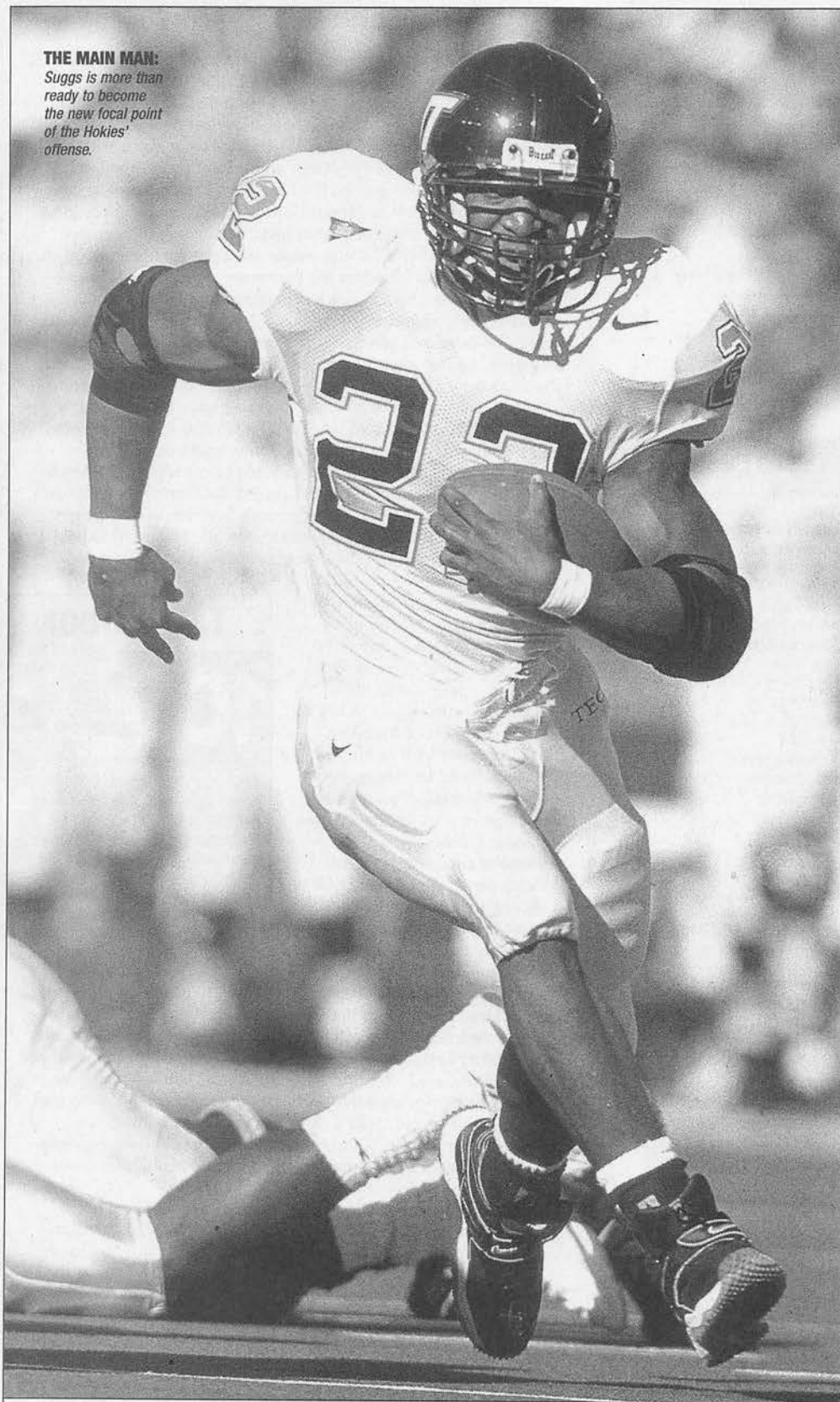
Already the school's winningest coach, Frank Beamer will record his 100th career

victory at Virginia Tech if the Hokies defeat Connecticut in the opener. Beamer, in his 15th season in Blacksburg, will enter the UConn game with a 99-61-2 record with the Hokies. Beamer was nearly lured away in the offseason when North Carolina came calling.

BIG EAST



**THE MAIN MAN:**  
Suggs is more than ready to become the new focal point of the Hokies' offense.



**Defensive concerns:** What concerns could Foster possibly have with the defense he plans to field? Well, for one, several of the aforementioned stars missed spring drills while recuperating from off-season surgeries. Taylor sat out after ankle surgery; Houseright was out with a knee problem. Then there was Pile (shoulder), Beasley (foot) and Pugh (ankles). Corners Garnell Wilds (knee) and Larry Austin (knee), who sat out last season, also were among those held out of spring practices. So Foster can expect to spend some time shaking off the rust and easing them back. The flip side is that Foster will have had a chance to develop some depth by getting the backups valuable repetitions in the spring.

**Special teams:** This has been coach Frank Beamer's pet project through the years, and his devotion to it has paid off handsomely. This year, Beamer plans to focus on punting to help Robert Peaslee improve upon his average of a year ago (35.3 yards). K Carter Warley, an All-Big East second-teamer, was the No. 5 scorer in the league—and a distant second on the team behind Suggs (168)—with 77 points. He was another spring absentee because of a back problem that is expected to be sorted out by the fall.

**Coaching staff:** Beamer probably did his best coaching job last year when he started the season needing to replace eight starters on defense, four on offense and the entire special teams unit. To make matters even more difficult, injuries befell key offensive and defensive starters. So what do the Hokies do? They finish 11-1 and go to the Gator Bowl, where they whip Clemson, 41-20. Beamer resisted a brief flirtation with the North Carolina job, as did Foster with the Virginia vacancy.

**Bottom line:** Despite losing Vick, Beamer still has plenty of pieces left to contend for the conference title and a berth in the Bowl Championship Series. A strong running game and an emerging defense are building on the stability of a rock-solid program with a chance to make another run at the national championship.

to be magnificent, and so does the secondary, which is led by S Willie Pile, a big-hitting presence whose strong coverage skills helped him record a team-leading 6 interceptions and 10 pass breakups. CB Ronyell Whitaker, perhaps the best cover man on the team, will be back to provide protection against the air raid.

of pieces left to contend for the conference title and a berth in the Bowl Championship Series. A strong running game and an emerging defense are building on the stability of a rock-solid program with a chance to make another run at the national championship.



# 3 Pittsburgh

**National Rank**  
**24**

**Coach:** Walt Harris (20-26, 4 years; 30-51 overall, 7 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** J.D. Brookhart (2nd season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Paul Rhoads (2nd season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Pro style  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 5  
**Lettermen lost:** 13  
**Lettermen returning:** 53  
**Site:** Pittsburgh  
**Stadium:** North Shore (65,000)  
**Last league title won:** none  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1999  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 53  
**2000 record:** 7-5 (lost to Iowa State in Insight.com Bowl); Big East: 4-3/3rd  
**Website:**  
www.pittsburghpanthers.com

## 2000 Results

Kent State, W, 30-7  
at Bowling Green, W, 34-16  
Penn State, W, 12-0  
Rutgers, W, 29-17  
at Syracuse, L, 24-17  
Boston College, W, 42-26  
at Virginia Tech, L, 37-34  
North Carolina, L, 20-17  
at Miami (Fla.), L, 35-7  
at Temple, W, 7-0  
West Virginia, W, 38-28  
Iowa State, L, 37-29

## Schedule

S1—East Tennessee State  
S8—South Florida  
S15—Alabama-Birmingham  
**S27—Miami (Fla.)**  
O6—at Notre Dame  
O13—Syracuse  
O20—at Boston College  
O27—at Temple  
N3—Virginia Tech  
N10—at Rutgers  
N24—at West Virginia

## Game of the year

**Sept. 27—Miami (Fla.)**  
After feasting on three non-conference appetizers, this ESPN Thursday night home game against the Hurricanes will provide the Panthers with plenty to chew on. A victory will vault Pittsburgh into contention for the conference title. The Panthers have won just one of the last 12 meetings with Miami.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

If a running back develops, this will be an explosive attack. The defense might be one of the biggest surprises in the Big East.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★  
**Receivers:** ★★★★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★★  
**Secondary:** ★★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Antonio Bryant	6-2	185	Jr.
	R.J. English	6-3	215	Sr.
T	Matt Morgan	6-7	290	So.
	Dan LaCarte	6-4	280	So.
G	Jon Schall	6-4	295	So.
	Penny Semaia	6-5	315	So.
C	Chad Reed	6-3	280	Jr.
	Justin Belarski	6-3	270	Fr.*
G	Bryan Anderson	6-5	305	Jr.
	Rob Pettiti	6-6	320	Fr.*
T	Khiawatha Downey	6-4	305	Jr.
	Joe Manganello	6-4	295	Jr.
TE	Mike Bosnic	6-7	280	Sr.
	Kris Wilson	6-3	230	So.
WR	Lamar Slade	6-4	205	Jr.
	R.J. English	6-3	215	Sr.
QB	David Priestley	6-4	205	Sr.
	Rod Rutherford	6-3	215	So.
RB	Mike Jemison	5-11	215	Fr.*
	Malcolm Postell	6-1	210	Fr.*
FB	Lousaka Polite	6-0	240	So.
	Dustin Picciotti	6-3	250	So.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Ryan Smith	6-4	255	Jr.
	Brian Guzek	6-2	245	Jr.
NT	Darrell McMurray	6-4	295	So.
	Dan Stephens	6-2	270	Fr.*
T	Joe Conlin	6-5	280	Sr.
	Vince Crochunis	6-4	270	Fr.*
E	Bryan Knight	6-2	230	Sr.
	Claude Harriott	6-4	235	So.
OLB	Gerald Hayes	6-3	240	Jr.
	Lewis Moore	6-2	245	So.
MLB	Ryan Gonsales	6-2	245	Sr.
	Amir Purifoy	6-2	235	Sr.
OLB	Brandon Williams	6-0	225	Sr.
	Brian Beinecke	6-1	225	Jr.
CB	Shawntae Spencer	6-2	170	So.
	Torrie Cox	5-10	185	Jr.
SS	Mark Ponko	5-10	200	Sr.
	Gary Urschler	5-10	195	Jr.
FS	Ramon Walker	6-0	195	Jr.
	Corey Humphries	6-2	205	So.
CB	Shawn Robinson	6-1	180	Jr.
	William Ferguson	5-10	185	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Nick Lotz	6-2	210	Sr.
P	Andy Lee	6-2	195	So.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** Given the success WR Antonio Bryant had last season, it might be best if coach Walt Harris simply got the ball in the hands of his All-American wideout and Biletnikoff Award winner early and often in every game. But Harris knows his offense cannot survive on just Bryant, who is an early candidate for the Heisman Trophy. This is why it is imperative for the running game to provide some balance to Pittsburgh's pro-style offense. If the Panthers can force opponents to respect the run, then they can pick their spots to stretch the field with Bryant and the other receivers.

**Offensive stars:** Bryant led the nation in receiving last year, averaging 130.2 yards. How, exactly, did all the Florida schools let this Miami native slip through their fingers? The Panthers were happy to have him in their city and feature him in their offense, which allowed him to set a school and Big East record with 1,302 receiving yards. Bryant probably will draw double coverage, which should open things for WRs R.J. English and Lamar Slade plus TE Mike Bosnic. The departure of John Turman pared the quarterback derby down to David Priestley and Rod Rutherford. Priestley has put in more time learning Pittsburgh's intricate passing scheme, but the versatile Rutherford brings more to the table with his passing and running ability. Rutherford's legs could become a factor if the running game sputters without 1,000-yard rusher Kevan Barlow and RB Nick Goings. RT Khiawatha Downey and RG Bryan Anderson lend stability to a line that lost starters in LT Mark Browne and C Jeff McCurley. **Offensive concerns:** If the Panthers fail to generate any kind of running threat, they risk becoming one-dimensional, which is the last thing Harris wants or needs. With Barlow and Goings gone, the success of the running game hinges on unproven personnel. Pitt has seven running backs in its incoming class of freshmen, but true freshman TB Mike Jemison, who enrolled in the spring, is being asked to step up and fill the void. Bullish FB Dustin Picciotti has potential, but he saw limited action because of a post-concussion condition. How much of an impact can Picciotti expect to have? Priestley must bounce back from the shoulder injury that cut short his season two years ago and step up his performance of a year ago (57-for-103, 829 yards, 5 TDs, 4 INTs). If he doesn't seize command of the job and is unable to efficiently operate the offense, Harris won't hesitate with the hook, which will only disrupt the passing game's timing and rhythm.

**Defensive philosophy:** When Paul Rhoads took over as coordinator last year, he made certain not to institute any radical changes to Pittsburgh's 4-3 defense. Based on the personnel's abilities to swarm to the ball, run from sideline to sideline and bring extra heat off the corner with a zone-blitz package, the defense was among the best in the Big East. The nice thing is 10 starters return from that unit. **Defensive stars:** LBs Amir Purifoy, Ryan Gonsales and Gerald Hayes (team-high 104 tackles) are a formidable trio that anchors a talented front seven. All-Big East first-team DE Bryan Knight, who will be up for Lombardi Award consideration, tripled his production from the previous season by recording 11.5 sacks and logging 26 tackles for loss. Knight's strong pass-rushing ability and his commitment to containment helped the Panthers lead the league in sacks (35) for the first time in school history. A year ago, Pittsburgh's secondary loomed as a huge question mark, but this season it figures to be a major strength. Hard-hitting FS Ramon Walker, though hampered by an injury that caused him to miss three games, returns as the designated hitter of the group and will be backed by an impressive collection of corners that includes Shawn Robinson, a solid cover man who defended a school-record 18 passes last season, and Shawntae Spencer, who had 15 passes defended and two interceptions as a true freshman. The secondary could prove to be the backbone of the defense.

## TSNumber

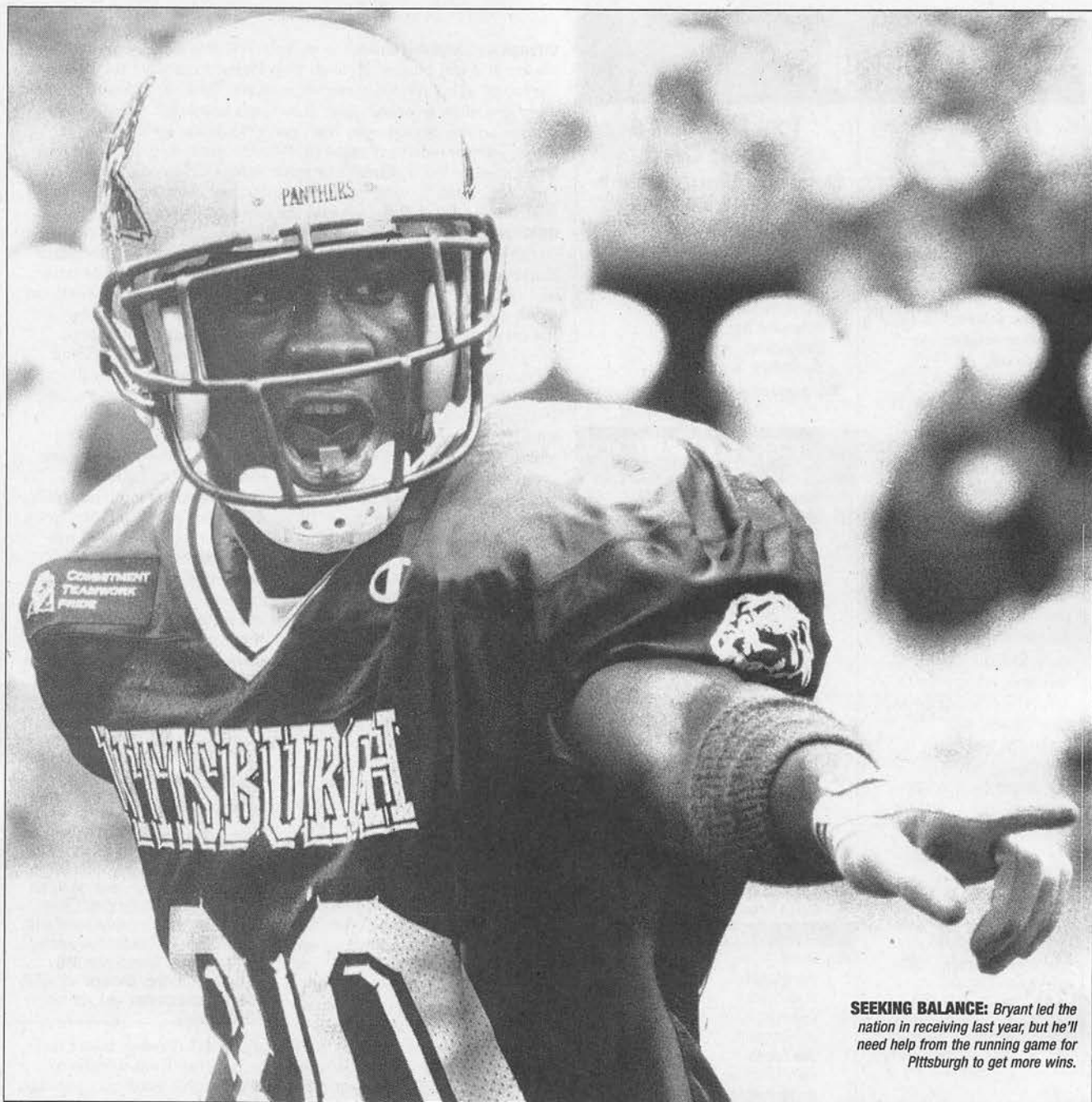
**35**

Sacks registered by the Panthers last season. With players such as E Bryan Knight, who ranked second in the Big

East last season with 11.5 sacks, look for Pittsburgh to improve on that number. Knight didn't stop there. He led the conference with 26 tackles for losses that totaled 141 yards. E Ryan Smith and LB Gerald Hayes showed an ability to rush the passer last season.

BIG EAST





**SEEKING BALANCE:** Bryant led the nation in receiving last year, but he'll need help from the running game for Pittsburgh to get more wins.

**Defensive concerns:** On the surface, there wouldn't appear to be many. But when you look beyond that, there are questions at linebacker, where the "Will" spot remains unsettled and likely will be manned by a committee of players that includes Brandon Williams, a former tailback who finally found a home on defense last year and made 49 tackles, and Brian Beinecke, who split time with Williams and recorded a career-high 52 tackles. DE Ryan Smith had to sit out spring drills to recover from offseason back surgery but still could have a breakthrough season. DTs Joe Conlin and Darrell McMurray will need to step up to fill the vacancy left by Mike White, who was the only loss among the defensive starters. Depth will be thin, and the Panthers will have to rely on a crop of untested players in key backup roles, which could lead to mental mistakes from time to time.

**Special teams:** K Nick Lotz looks again to be solid after converting 10 of 15 field-goal attempts and totaling 59 points, which ranked second on the team. Andy Lee wrested the punting duties from Jay Junko late in the season and averaged 39.2 yards, with a sea-

son long of 53 against West Virginia. Rutherford and Bryant are big-play threats on kick and punt returns, respectively.

**Coaching staff:** When John Cooper was fired at Ohio State, Harris' name immediately surfaced. However, when the Buckeyes sought permission to speak with the talented Pittsburgh coach, they were denied by Pittsburgh A.D. Steve Pedersen, who was intent on keeping his football program on the rise. If the Panthers fulfill everyone's expectations this season, Harris' name will come up again, and Pedersen will really have his hands full trying to shoo away the suitors. Harris also was able to keep staff turnover down, although he did add running backs coach Shawn Simms, who held a similar position last season at Rutgers.

**Bottom line:** Last year's 7-5 season, which culminated with a trip to the Insight.com Bowl, was a breakthrough of sorts for Harris and the Panthers. With the unveiling of a new stadium, the construction of new facilities and a quality crop of recruits, Harris will have Pittsburgh primed to continue its quantum leap to the top echelon of the conference.



# 4 Boston College

**Offensive philosophy:** It's all about balance and ball control. The team has a run-pass balance aimed at destabilizing opposing defenses with some zone run blocking and a measured passing game.

**Offensive stars:** RB William Green, who rushed for 1,164 yards last season, will be Boston College's offensive supernova. He will miss Cedric Washington, who helped carry the offensive burden last season, but it will be up to Derrick Knight and, quite possibly, incoming freshman Brandon Brokaw to pick up the slack. After serving as Tim Hasselbeck's understudy the last two seasons, QB Brian St. Pierre will start. He completed 47 of 77 passes for 543 yards and four touchdowns last season. St. Pierre will be capably supported by a wideout corps led by a trio of experienced seniors in Dedrick Dewalt, Ryan Read and Jamal Burke. Dewalt had 38 receptions for 676 yards and eight touchdowns last year.

**Offensive concerns:** Much of the team's success is predicated on the success of the line. After losing three key starters, including All-American RG Paul Zukauskas, it'll be up to C Dan Koppen and RT Marc Colombo to bring along a young and inexperienced group that will have a lot of pressure put upon it to clear running lanes for Green and provide protection for St. Pierre. The tight end position has long been a feature of the team's offense, but it has been an afterthought of late. Newcomer Dave Kashetta will be expected to step up, along with Sean Ryan and Frank Misurelli, both of whom moved over from the defense.

**Defensive philosophy:** Nothing has changed here as Frank Spaziani returns for his fifth season as coordinator. Boston College will continue to place a premium on hard-nosed play. The Eagles use a 4-3 scheme that is predicated on strong, physical play at the point of attack.

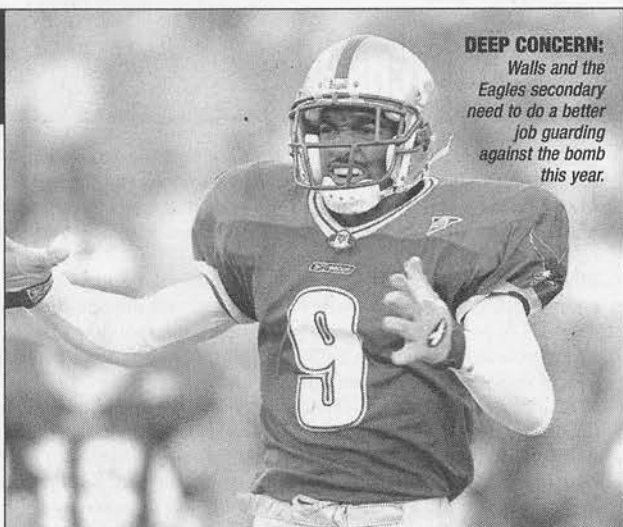
**Defensive stars:** DTs Doug Goodwin and Tom Martin and DEs Sean Guthrie and Deric Rossy emerged as standouts in the Eagles' 31-17 victory over Arizona State in the Aloha Bowl. Guthrie had six sacks last season. DT Keith Leavitt is a huge road block in the interior line, where he should be joined by newcomers Justin Hinds and Anthony Crosson. That will allow DT Antonio Garay to switch to end where he can work in space. OLB Scott Bradley will be a front-seven stalwart, and CBs Lenny Walls and Will Poole will anchor an experienced secondary that proved vulnerable at times defending the deep ball last season.

**Defensive concerns:** How will Garay's knee hold up? After he went down on the first play of the opener last year and sat out the remainder of the season, how long will it take him to shake the rust off? Injuries ravaged the team's defense, particularly its linebacking corps, where the Eagles will be thin and inexperienced. For the first time in two seasons, Boston College will lack a true run-stopper in the middle. Bradley, too, suffered a major knee injury last year and will try to avoid a repeat this season.

**Special teams:** K Sandro Sciortino, who ceded kicking duties to Mike Sutphin last season, will take over this year. His leg is strong, but he remains unproven. There are no such questions about P Kevin McMyler, who emerged as the surprise of the special teams when he averaged 39.7 yards per punt. The kick return squads have been a bit of a disappointment, but they could be bolstered by the arrival of freshmen speedburners Jazzmen Williams and Larry Lester.

**Coaching staff:** Tom O'Brien, who at one time was considered a candidate for the Virginia job, instead lost one of his core group of assistants to the Cavaliers when defensive line coach Mike London took a similar position on Al Groh's staff in Charlottesville. O'Brien did manage to keep linebackers coach Bill McGovern on board after he was wooed by Rutgers coach Greg Schiano for the defensive coordinator's job. Keith Willis, a 12-year veteran of the NFL who coached the last two seasons at Cincinnati, will take over for London.

**Bottom line:** After taking the Eagles to back-to-back bowl games, O'Brien's goal is to put Boston College on the path for a New Year's Day bowl bid. The Eagles have the necessary tools to accomplish that objective, but it will all hinge on the development of a young offensive line. A seven-win season could have the Eagles headed back to the Insight.com Bowl.



**DEEP CONCERN:** Walls and the Eagles secondary need to do a better job guarding against the bomb this year.

ROBERT SEALE/TSN

## National Rank 44

**Coach:** Tom O'Brien (23-23-0, 8 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Dana Bible (3rd season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Frank Spaziani (5th season)

**Offensive scheme:** I-formation

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 12

**Lettermen lost:** 21

**Lettermen returning:** 40

**Site:** Chestnut Hill, Mass.

**Stadium:** Alumni (turf, 44,500)

**Last league title won:** none

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1998

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 29

**2000 record:** 7-5 (beat

Arizona State in Aloha Bowl);

Big East: 3-4/T4th

**Website:** www.bceagles.com

### 2000 Results

at West Virginia, L, 34-14

at Army, W, 55-17

Navy, W, 48-7

Virginia Tech, L, 48-34

Connecticut, W, 55-3

Syracuse, W, 20-13

at Pittsburgh, L, 42-26

Rutgers, W, 42-13

Temple, W, 31-3

at Notre Dame, L, 28-16

at Miami (Fla.), L, 52-6

Arizona State, W, 31-17

### Schedule

S1—West Virginia

S8—at Stanford

S22—at Navy

S29—Army

O6—Temple

O13—at Virginia Tech

O20—Pittsburgh

O27—Notre Dame

N10—Miami (Fla.)

N17—at Rutgers

N24—at Syracuse

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jamal Burke	6-1	207	Jr.
	Keith Hemmings	6-2	201	Jr.
T	Leo Ball	6-8	278	So.
	Frank Wilpert	6-5	289	So.
G	John Richardson	6-4	282	So.
	Chris Snee	6-3	285	Fr.*
C	<b>Dan Koppen</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Todd McKniff	6-4	279	Jr.
G	Marc Parenteau	6-5	287	Jr.
	Augie Hoffman	6-3	308	So.
T	<b>Marc Colombo</b>	<b>6-8</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Dan Murphy	6-6	295	Jr.
TE	Frank Misurelli	6-4	257	Jr.
	Sean Ryan	6-5	266	So.
WR	Dedrick Dewalt	5-9	180	Sr.
	Ryan Read	6-0	183	Sr.
QB	Brian St. Pierre	6-4	213	Jr.
	Kevin Kiley	6-3	217	So.
RB	William Green	6-1	215	Jr.
	Derrick Knight	5-9	192	So.
FB	<b>Ryan Utzler</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	J.P. Comella	6-0	233	So.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Sean Guthrie</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Deric Rossy	6-3	247	Jr.
T	<b>Doug Goodwin</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Tom Martin	6-4	271	So.
T	<b>Keith Leavitt</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Justin Hinds	6-3	288	So.
E	Antonio Garay	6-4	294	Sr.
	Leonard Bennett	6-0	241	So.
OLB	<b>Scott Bradley</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jerome Ledbetter	6-1	226	Jr.
MLB	Andy Romanowsky	6-2	228	Sr.
	Vinny Ciurciu	6-0	238	Jr.
OLB	<b>Curtis Bolden</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Josh Ott	6-2	216	So.
CB	<b>Will Poole</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Trevar White	5-8	181	Jr.
SS	<b>Ralph Parent</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Paul Cook	5-11	192	So.
FS	Doug Bessette	5-11	202	Jr.
	Brian Flores	5-11	204	So.
CB	<b>Lenny Walls</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Peter Shean	5-9	169	Fr.*

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Sandro Sciortino	5-10	200	So.
P	<b>Kevin McMyler</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

BIG EAST



# 5 Syracuse

**Offensive philosophy:** Syracuse's offense is called the pro option, but that is a misnomer, because few, if any, pro teams run the option. In reality, it is a spread option-style offense that leans toward pro multiplicity and is designed to stretch a defense vertically and from sideline to sideline.

**Offensive stars:** Speedy RB James Mungro, who set a Big East record with 6.97 yards per carry last season, will provide the lightning; FB Kyle Johnson is expected to supply the thunder. The explosiveness of Syracuse's backfield will be bolstered by the addition of underclassmen Diamond Ferri and Walter Reyes.

WRs Maurice Jackson and David Tyree have the speed to challenge defenses, but they were underused last season as the Orangemen failed to mount a passing threat because of the situation at quarterback, where Troy Nunes and R.J. Anderson struggled. Both quarterbacks will have to step up or risk losing the job to incoming freshman Cecil Howard.

**Offensive concerns:** With eight starters returning, including four offensive linemen, there are few concerns in numbers, but there is one major concern: quarterback. Who will be the starter? Nunes? Anderson? Howard? The Orangemen were an ineffective passing team last season, getting 171 yards per game. Last year, coach Paul Pasqualoni might have vacillated for too long during preseason camp before naming Nunes as his starter. He then was slow to give Nunes the hook when he clearly was unable to do the job. There can be no indecision this season.

**Defensive philosophy:** As is the case with almost every 4-3 scheme, the focus of Syracuse's attack is to be aggressive. The Orangemen like to shift linebackers off the line of scrimmage and disguise blitz schemes by bringing a lot of pressure off the edges.

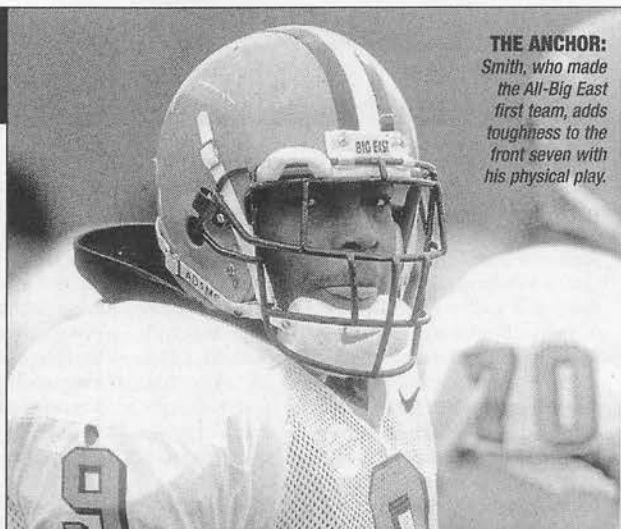
**Defensive stars:** DE Dwight Freeney, a unanimous All-Big East first-teamer who sat out the last four games of last season with a lacerated spleen, is a dominant pass rusher. He likely will draw attention for the Butkus, Lombardi and Bednarik Awards if he can control the perimeter and collapse the pocket like he did last season before getting injured. LB Clifton Smith, another All-Big East first-teamer, is a physical force in the interior of the front seven and has a nose for the ball. FS Quentin Harris, SS Keon Walker and CB Willie Ford will return to reprise their roles in Syracuse's secondary. The team ranked 12th nationally in pass defense last season.

**Defensive concerns:** The biggest worry will be how Freeney responds to his four-game layoff at the end of last season. Syracuse's defensive pressure begins and ends with him, so it will be vital for Freeney to set the tone early. E Mark Holtzman gained valuable experience in Freeney's absence, and Ts Christian Ferrara and Louis Gachelin were able to get on the field as part of the rotation. If the newcomers in the front seven fail to adapt, it could create a burden for the linebackers, who will be expected to react and recover.

**Special teams:** This was a sore spot for the Orangemen a year ago when both the punting and kicking duties fell to sophomore Mike Shafer, who did an admirable job as a punter (40.9-yard average) but clearly struggled as a kicker, hitting just 7 of 20 field-goal attempts. If Shafer is unable to show improvement in his kicking, he could lose the job to redshirt freshman Collin Barber. Malik Campbell is a capable punt returner, and Jackson and Mungro are back to handle kick returns.

**Coaching staff:** Pasqualoni enters his 11th season at Syracuse, having compiled an impressive 81-36-1 record with the Orangemen. But not receiving a bowl invitation last season had a ruinous effect on recruiting. Pasqualoni's longtime righthand man, George DeLeone, remained at Syracuse after his name surfaced as a possible candidate for the Rutgers vacancy.

**Bottom line:** Syracuse is just one of four Division I-A teams with an active streak of 14 winning seasons, but when the Orangemen do not go a bowl game, it causes some grumbling. The last two seasons, Pasqualoni has heard a lot of grumbling, and it might get even louder if Syracuse is unable to survive a brutal 12-game schedule.



**THE ANCHOR:** Smith, who made the All-Big East first team, adds toughness to the front seven with his physical play.

## National Rank 46

**Coach:** Paul Pasqualoni (81-36-1, 10 years; 115-53-1 overall, 15 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** George DeLeone (12th season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Chris Rippon (3rd season)

**Offensive scheme:** Pro option

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 8

**Lettermen lost:** 15

**Lettermen returning:** 35

**Site:** Syracuse, N.Y.

**Stadium:** Carrier Dome (artificial turf, 49,550)

**Last league title won:** 1998

**Last bowl appearance:** 1999

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 32

**2000 record:** 6-5; Big East: 4-3/T3rd

**Website:** www.suathletics.com

## 2000 results

Buffalo, W, 63-7  
at Cincinnati, L, 12-10  
at East Carolina, L, 34-17  
Brigham Young, W, 42-14  
Pittsburgh, W, 24-17 (20T)  
at Boston College, L, 20-13  
Virginia Tech, L, 22-14  
at West Virginia, W, 31-27  
at Temple, W, 31-12  
Miami (Fla.), L, 26-0  
Rutgers, W, 49-12

## Schedule

A26—vs. Georgia Tech  
S1—at Tennessee  
S8—Central Florida  
S15—East Carolina  
S22—Auburn  
O6—at Rutgers  
O13—at Pittsburgh  
O20—Temple  
O27—at Virginia Tech  
N10—West Virginia  
N17—at Miami (Fla.)  
N24—Boston College

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Maurice Jackson	5-8	169	Sr.
	David Tyree	6-1	197	Jr.
T	<b>P.J. Alexander</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Adam Terry	6-7	291	Fr.*
G	<b>Sean O'Connor</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Matt Tarullo	6-5	311	Fr.*
C	<b>Nick Romeo</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Chris Buda	6-2	292	So.
G	<b>Joe Burton</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Erik Kaloyanides	6-4	298	Jr.
T	Giovanni DeLoatch	6-5	307	Sr.
	Kevin Sampson	6-4	277	So.
TE	<b>Graham Manley</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jeremie Frazier	6-1	246	Sr.
WR	<b>Malik Campbell</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Johnnie Morant	6-4	218	So.
QB	<b>R.J. Anderson</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Troy Nunes	6-2	185	Jr.
RB	James Mungro	5-9	215	Sr.
	Diamond Ferri	5-10	204	So.
FB	Kyle Johnson	6-1	238	Sr.
	Chris Davis	5-11	230	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Mark Holtzman	6-4	259	Sr.
	Josh Thomas	6-6	256	So.
T	Christian Ferrara	6-3	278	So.
	Brian Hooper	6-1	281	Fr.*
T	Louis Gachelin	6-1	280	So.
	Charles Simpson	6-1	318	So.
E	<b>Dwight Freeney</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Sheldon King	6-1	259	Sr.
OLB	Maurice Minter	6-3	216	Sr.
	Jose Harris	6-4	236	Jr.
MLB	<b>Clifton Smith</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Rodney Wells	5-11	235	Sr.
OLB	<b>JR Johnson</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Rich Scanlon	6-1	228	So.
CB	Will Hunter	5-10	185	Sr.
	Latroy Oliver	5-8	191	Jr.
SS	<b>Keon Walker</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Charles Burton	6-1	231	Sr.
FS	<b>Quentin Harris</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Maurice McClain	6-1	172	Jr.
CB	<b>Willie Ford</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	B.J. Darnell	5-7	176	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Mike Shafer</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
P	<b>Mike Shafer</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN



# 6 West Virginia

**Offensive philosophy:** The theme of the Mountaineers' attack: pressure, pressure, pressure. New coach Rich Rodriguez has brought his no-huddle, spread offense from Clemson, where he was Tommy Bowden's offensive coordinator. The aim of Rodriguez's scheme is to keep opposing defenses on their heels with an offense designed to give touches to as many as five different players and produce an extra 10 to 15 plays a game.

**Offensive stars:** Incumbent QB Brad Lewis has had his hands full battling for the starting job against the athletically gifted Rasheed Marshall. But Lewis' game experience and decision-making ability have given him the upper hand in grasping the new offense. At running back, third-year starter Avon Cobourne and Cooper Rego will be back to split time, but their touches might be limited in the team's new one-back scheme. WRs Shawn Terry and Antonio Brown are proven playmakers, but they must expand their games to include blocking duties.

**Offensive concerns:** With G Brad Knell as the front five's lone returning starter, Rodriguez will not only have to retool his offensive line, he'll have to whip it into shape to keep up with the up-tempo pace of play. The lumbering behemoth of the past will no longer work in West Virginia's new, hurry-up offense. The lack of depth at wide receiver and the wideouts' inability to hold blocks could put a huge dent in the scheme. With Rodriguez planning to cram the field with as many skilled people as he can in each formation on each play, there will be a premium on players with versatility.

**Defensive philosophy:** It's no coincidence West Virginia plans to imitate Virginia Tech's eight-man, attacking scheme by bringing extreme pressure at the line of scrimmage and dictating the game to an opposing offense. New defensive coordinator Phil Elmassian implemented the scheme when he held a similar position at Virginia Tech.

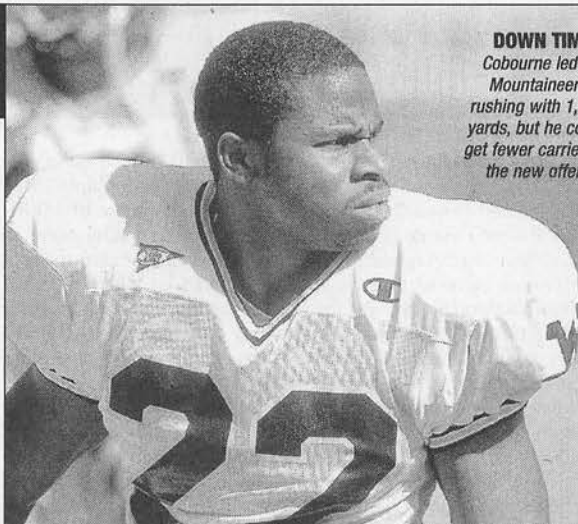
**Defensive stars:** LBs Kyle Kayden and Grant Wiley, who had an impact as a true freshman last season and was named the Big East Rookie of the Year, are solid defenders against the run and the pass. The front seven will be bolstered by the presence of a formidable trio of linemen—DT David Upchurch, DE Jason Davis and DT Antwan Lake. The three will be counted on to provide a strong push up the middle. CB Richard Bryant, the team's top cover corner, and SS Shawn Hackett, who led the team last year with 115 tackles, will give an experienced secondary a strong 1-2 punch.

**Defensive concerns:** Elmassian's defense requires players with speed to be effective. But will the new system be the solution to West Virginia's problems? The Mountaineers return nine defensive starters, but there could be some difficulty adapting to the new scheme, which puts an inordinate amount of pressure on the secondary. How will Arthur Harrison adapt in making a subtle switch from safety to rover? Will he be comfortable playing so close to the line of scrimmage?

**Special teams:** Mark Fazzolari returns as a third-year punter who averaged 41.3 yards a kick last season, second in the league. Zach Anglin will battle Todd James and Brendan Rauh for the kicking job vacated by Jon Ohliger, the team's second-leading scorer last season.

**Coaching staff:** Rodriguez will oversee much of the offense but will entrust the defense to Elmassian, who left LSU for his fourth Big East school—he has had stints at Syracuse, Virginia Tech and Boston College. Bill Stewart, who will handle special teams and quarterbacks, is the lone holdover from Don Nehlen's staff but will be joined by assistant coach/offensive line coach Rick Trickett, who came from LSU for his second tour at West Virginia.

**Bottom line:** Rodriguez will face a monumental challenge in succeeding Nehlen, who retired after last season as West Virginia's all-time winningest coach. It could get ugly early on as the Mountaineers adapt to new offensive and defensive schemes that will test them to the extreme and could result in more losses than wins in the early going.



**DOWN TIME?**  
Cobourne led the Mountaineers in rushing with 1,018 yards, but he could get fewer carries in the new offense.

BOB LEVERONE/TSN

## National Rank 57

**Coach:** Rich Rodriguez (1st year; 47-44-2 overall, 8 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Rich Rodriguez (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Phil Elmassian (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** No-huddle

**Defensive scheme:** 5-2

**Starters lost:** 10

**Lettermen lost:** 12

**Lettermen returning:** 39

**Site:** Morgantown, W. Va.

**Stadium:** Mountaineer Field

(turf, 63,500)

**Last league title won:** 1993

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1999

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 43

**2000 record:** 7-5 (beat

Mississippi in Music City

Bowl); Big East: 3-4/T6th

**Website:**

www.wvu.edu/~sports

## 2000 Results

Boston College, W, 34-14

Maryland, W, 30-17

Miami (Fla.), L, 47-10

at Temple, W, 29-24

Idaho, W, 28-16

at Virginia Tech, L, 48-20

Notre Dame, L, 42-28

Syracuse, L, 31-27

at Rutgers, W, 31-24

East Carolina, W, 42-24

at Pittsburgh, L, 38-28

Mississippi, W, 49-38

## Schedule

S1—at Boston College

S8—Ohio

S15—at Maryland

S22—Kent

O6—Virginia Tech

O13—at Notre Dame

O25—at Miami (Fla.)

N3—Rutgers

N10—at Syracuse

N17—Temple

N24—Pittsburgh

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Antonio Brown</b>	5-10	170	Sr.
	Shawn Swindall	5-9	170	Sr.
T	Lance Nimmo	6-6	285	Jr.
	Geoff Lewis	6-4	285	So.
G	Jason Brooks	6-4	290	Sr.
	Greg Mittleider	6-4	285	So.
C	Zach Dillow	6-2	276	Jr.
	Josh Kelly	6-5	275	Jr.
G	<b>Brad Knell</b>	6-5	290	Sr.
	Rondrick Smith	6-3	295	Jr.
T	Tim Brown	6-5	295	So.
	Jeff Berk	6-5	285	Fr.*
WR	Phil Braxton	6-3	200	Jr.
	Harold Leath	6-4	190	Fr.*
WR	Shawn Terry	6-3	175	Sr.
	Mike Page	5-8	165	Fr.*
WR	A.J. Nastasi	6-0	185	Jr.
	Seth Abraham	5-11	175	Sr.
QB	<b>Brad Lewis</b>	6-3	215	Sr.
	Rasheed Marshall	6-1	185	Fr.*
RB	<b>Avon Cobourne</b>	5-9	190	Jr.
	Cooper Rego	5-10	190	Sr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Jason Davis</b>	6-5	275	Jr.
	Cecil Hagwood	6-5	235	Fr.*
T	<b>David Upchurch</b>	6-4	275	Jr.
	Sedrick Lewis	6-2	300	Jr.
T	<b>Antwan Lake</b>	6-5	285	Sr.
	Tim Love	6-4	265	Jr.
E	Corey McIntyre	6-0	245	Sr.
	James Davis	6-3	215	Jr.
LB	<b>Kyle Kayden</b>	6-3	235	Sr.
	Adam Lehnort	6-4	220	Fr.*
LB	<b>Grant Wiley</b>	6-1	225	So.
	Ben Collins	5-11	210	Jr.
ROV	Arthur Harrison	5-9	185	Jr.
	Lewis Daniels	6-1	190	Jr.
CB	<b>Richard Bryant</b>	6-0	170	Sr.
	Joe Scritchfield	5-10	175	Fr.*
SS	<b>Shawn Hackett</b>	6-1	195	Sr.
	Ben Meighan	6-1	195	Jr.
FS	<b>Rick Sherrod</b>	6-3	195	Sr.
	Angel Estrada	6-2	190	Jr.
CB	<b>Lance Frazier</b>	5-10	185	So.
	Brian King	6-0	175	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Todd James	6-3	205	So.
P	<b>Mark Fazzolari</b>	6-0	185	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

BIG EAST



# 7 Temple

**Offensive philosophy:** The Owls, who return 10 starters on offense, will be in the second year of Bobby Wallace's Pro Multiple scheme that seemed to benefit last season from the emergence of 1,000-yard rusher Tanardo Sharps. With an improved running game, the Owls have shed tendencies as a one-dimensional offense reliant on its passing game and managed to open things up a little more.

**Offensive stars:** Sharps was the biggest surprise last season, rushing 201 times for 1,038 yards and ranking second in the league in all-purpose yards (140.2 per game). He must improve his pass blocking, decoying and pass-route running to become an all-around threat. FB Jason McKie should complement Sharps' speed on the perimeter with tough running between the tackles. With senior Mike Frost likely to be redshirted, QBs Devin Scott and Mac DeVito will give Temple a solid 1-2 punch. WR Greg Muckerson, who led the team with 41 receptions for 487 yards, gives the Owls a seasoned set of hands, but he is likely to be challenged for playing time by Sean Dillard, a speedster with the ability to break a big play. T Dave Yovanovits and C Don Klein will anchor a group that lost only one starter from last year, RT Mathias Nkwenti.

**Offensive concerns:** Mental mistakes were a constant source of concern and frustration for Wallace last season. The Owls tied for most sacks allowed (35 for 246 yards in losses) and had the second-most penalties (85 for 646 yards) in the league. How will Yovanovits handle moving into Nkwenti's position, and how will Jose Portillo handle the transition of going from right guard to left tackle? The line could be in a state of flux all season as Wallace figures out the starting group and backup combinations.

**Defensive philosophy:** With 10 starters returning, Temple isn't likely to make any radical changes to its 4-3 scheme. The Owls will continue to strive to play strong at the point of attack and use their speed and quickness to swarm to the ball.

**Defensive stars:** He might be one of most underrated linebackers in the Big East, but Taylor Suman probably has been its most productive. After recording 110 tackles last season, Suman, a Butkus Award candidate, will rank as the conference's leading returning tackler. With the loss of LB LeVar Talley, Suman and LB Chonn Lacey must provide even more leadership. Ts Dan Klecko, slowed last season by an injury-plagued season, and Russell Newman are formidable players at the point of attack who are strong pass rushers. E Raheem Brock will be back for a fifth year and gives the Owls another strong rusher on the end. CB Terrance Leftwich emerged as the surprise of a young secondary last season.

**Defensive concerns:** Hindered by injuries last year, Klecko and Newman must stay healthy. Newman was idle during the spring while recuperating from offseason surgery. Can LB Leon Gray make everyone forget about Talley when he moves into his spot? With many seasoned juniors and seniors occupying starting positions, depth must be developed.

**Special teams:** This was an area of emphasis in the spring. After getting thrown into the fire as a freshman, K Cap Poklemba continues to improve. He missed only one of 27 PATs last season. P Garvin Ringwelski, who was hampered by a back injury last season, struggled to average 37.3 yards on 55 punts. Sharps is a proven threat as a kick returner. He had a season-best 49-yarder last year against Rutgers.

**Coaching staff:** There was no significant turnover on Wallace's staff, but the program was dealt a devastating blow when it was kicked out of the Big East, effective June 30, 2002. If the school is unable to find another conference affiliation, it will hinder Wallace's bid to recruit better players, schedule games and land a postseason berth. Ultimately, the move could jeopardize Wallace's job security if the program heads south.

**Bottom line:** After getting booted from the Big East, Temple should not be lacking for motivation. With 25 seniors, the Owls will be in prime position to take some parting shots at their league opponents. Still, Temple can't go out in a blaze of glory unless it has a winning conference record. Finishing in sixth place won't cut it.

**WORK TO DO:**  
The Owls need Sharps, a huge surprise last year, to become an all-around threat.



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

## National Rank 60

**Coach:** Bobby Wallace (8-25, 3 years; 90-61-1 overall, 13 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Charlie Fisher (2nd season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Raymond Monica (4th season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 2

**Lettermen lost:** 4

**Lettermen returning:** 61

**Site:** Philadelphia

**Stadium:** Veterans (artificial turf, 66,592)

**Last league title won:** None

**Last bowl appearance:** 1979

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 84

**2000 record:** 4-7; Big East: 1-6/7th

**Website:** www.owlsports.com

### 2000 Results

at Navy, W, 17-6  
at Maryland, L, 17-10  
Bowling Green, W, 31-14  
Eastern Michigan, W, 49-40  
West Virginia, L, 29-24  
at Virginia Tech, L, 35-13  
at Rutgers, W, 48-14  
Miami (Fla.), L, 45-17  
at Boston College, L, 31-3  
Syracuse, L, 31-12  
Pittsburgh, L, 7-0

### Schedule

A30—Navy  
S8—Toledo  
S15—Connecticut  
S22—at Bowling Green  
O6—at Boston College  
O13—Rutgers  
O20—at Syracuse  
O27—Pittsburgh  
N3—at Miami (Fla.)  
N10—Virginia Tech  
N17—at West Virginia

### DEPTH CHART Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Charles Cobb	6-0	173	Jr.
	Terrence Stubbs	6-1	193	Jr.
T	Jose Portillo	6-3	299	So.
	Jason Heilman	6-4	280	Jr.
G	Joe Laudano	6-2	283	So.
	Damian Hendricks	6-4	278	Jr.
C	Don Klein	6-2	286	Jr.
	Adam Boyd	6-3	295	Jr.
G	Vincent Gabriele	6-5	283	Jr.
	Frank McAndrew	6-3	291	Fr.*
T	Dave Yovanovits	6-3	283	Jr.
	John Maxim	6-5	321	So.
TE	Jordan Witzel	6-6	236	Jr.
	Kelly Nead	6-4	240	Jr.
WR	Greg Muckerson	5-11	190	Sr.
	Sean Dillard	5-9	162	Jr.
QB	Devin Scott	6-1	202	Sr.
	Mac DeVito	5-11	179	Sr.
RB	Tanardo Sharps	5-11	182	Jr.
	Lester Trammer	5-10	193	Jr.
FB	Jason McKie	5-11	239	Sr.
	Harold Jackson	6-2	270	Sr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Raheem Brock	6-4	257	Sr.
	Jason Davis	6-2	244	Sr.
T	Russell Newman	6-2	274	Sr.
	Rob Sack	6-2	255	Jr.
T	Dan Klecko	6-1	264	Jr.
	Taso Apostolidis	6-0	267	So.
E	Akeiff Staples	6-3	240	Sr.
	Rafael Fernandes	6-1	205	So.
OLB	Taylor Suman	6-2	231	Sr.
	Rick Scialla	5-11	219	So.
MLB	Leon Gray	6-1	223	So.
	J.D. Nichols	6-1	226	Jr.
OLB	Chonn Lacey	6-2	218	Sr.
	Brian West	5-11	188	Sr.
CB	Terrance Leftwich	6-0	169	Jr.
	Donnie Coleman	5-10	162	So.
SS	Lafton Thompson	6-2	199	Sr.
	Shawn Walker	6-2	183	Jr.
FS	Jamal Wallace	6-0	186	Sr.
	Joel Gray	5-11	178	Fr.*
CB	Philip Shepard	5-10	182	Sr.
	Yazid Jackson	5-9	166	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Cap Poklemba	5-11	175	Jr.
P	Garvin Ringwelski	6-5	224	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 8 Rutgers

**Offensive philosophy:** Though Rutgers has long suffered mismatches, first-year coach Greg Schiano will attempt to create mismatches that favor his multiple-style offense. The Scarlet Knights will deploy an attacking, two-back set with multiple tight end and wide receiver formations.

**Offensive stars:** Schiano will look for playmakers to step forward. Senior RB Dennis Thomas, who led the team in all-purpose yards last season with 1,257 (114.3 yards per game), will give the Scarlet Knights a solid presence in the backfield, but he will be pushed for playing time with the arrival of much-heralded freshman Ricki Cook. TE L.J. Smith will present a huge target with soft hands, but he will need help from a supporting cast of receivers led by Antoine Lovelace, David Stringer, Delrico Fletcher and Aaron Martin, all of whom have good size and are capable of making the big catch. LT Howard Blackwood will anchor a line that returns all five starters from last year's squad.

**Offensive concerns:** For a program that has been bereft of playmakers, the biggest concern is the search for game-breakers. Everything will begin at quarterback, where nothing is set in stone. After serving as Mike McMahon's understudy, Chad Schwenk must prove himself all over again to the new coaching staff. The receivers might pose another concern. Schiano wants to develop a quick-hitting, home-run type of guy—similar to those he was accustomed to at Miami—but the Scarlet Knights do not have burners capable of stretching defenses, and that could cause his offense to sputter.

**Defensive philosophy:** Schiano will bring the same scheme he used as Miami's defensive coordinator to Rutgers, where he hopes to implement an attacking 4-3 defense. Although Schiano won't have the same type of players he had at Miami, he hopes to instill the same enthusiasm and swarm-to-the-ball attitude.

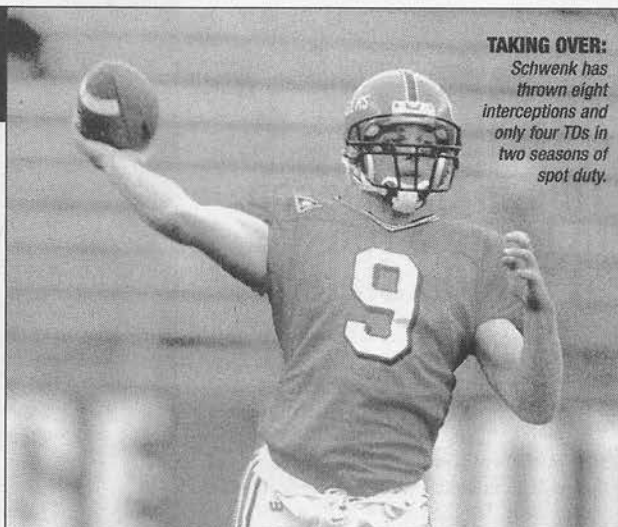
**Defensive stars:** E Torrance Heggie, who was third on the team in tackles last year with 64 (including five sacks and 10 tackles for loss), emerged as a strong presence coming off the edge as the team's premier pass rusher. If he can reprise the effort, he'll factor prominently in Schiano's scheme, as will CBs DeWayne Thompson, Brandon Haw and Tony Berry, all of whom are capable cover men who can match up well and play tough against the run. LB Raheem Orr, who sat out the past two seasons sorting out academic problems, is a punishing hitter who will be counted on to be a run-stopper.

**Defensive concerns:** First on Schiano's list is the lack of depth in the secondary. He still needs to identify a fourth guy and will need to prepare four others as capable reserves. But the depth problem stretches out from the secondary to the front seven, where questions abound about the Scarlet Knights' ability to adapt to a Miami-style scheme. Can Orr emerge as the player he was projected to be two years ago, or will he spend most of the season shaking off the rust?

**Special teams:** Schiano intends to place such a premium on this unit's production that he will oversee it himself. Steve Barone will return to handle the kicking duties, but he must improve his range and accuracy after hitting only six of 13 attempts with a long of 35 yards. P Mike Barr is a dependable returner. Dennis Thomas, who had 20 kick returns for 447 yards (22.4-yard average), likely will repeat his role as the squad's premier return specialist.

**Coaching staff:** Schiano completely overhauled Rutgers' staff, hiring Paul Ferraro away from Georgia Tech to handle the defensive coordinator duties and Bill Cubit from Missouri to take over as offensive coordinator. Schiano's most important hire might have been Mike Miello as running backs coach and recruiting coordinator. Recognized as a top high school coach in New Jersey who once coached Schiano at Ramapo High, Miello will be instrumental in helping Schiano tap into the fertile territory the new Rutgers coach called "the State of Rutgers."

**Bottom line:** The Scarlet Knights showed signs of life with a late recruiting flurry, but Schiano knows there is much work to be done in polishing Rutgers' downtrodden image. Expect the Scarlet Knights to absorb more lumps than they dish out.



**TAKING OVER:** Schwenk has thrown eight interceptions and only four TDs in two seasons of spot duty.

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

## National Rank 94

**Coach:** Greg Schiano (1st year)

**Offensive coordinator:** Bill Cubit (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Paul Ferraro (3rd season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple two-back formations

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 7

**Lettermen lost:** 13

**Lettermen returning:** 52

**Site:** New Brunswick, N.J.

**Stadium:** Rutgers (grass, 41,500)

**Last league title won:** none

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 2000

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 101

**2000 record:** 3-8; Big East:

0-7/8th

**Website:**

www.athletics.rutgers.edu

## 2000 Results

Villanova, W, 34-21

Buffalo, W, 59-0

at Virginia Tech, L, 49-0

at Pittsburgh, L, 29-17

Miami (Fla.), L 64-6

Temple, L, 48-14

at Navy, W, 28-21

at Boston College, L, 42-13

West Virginia, L, 31-24

Notre Dame, L, 45-17

at Syracuse, L, 49-21

## Schedule

A30—at Buffalo

S8—at Miami (Fla.)

S15—California

S22—Virginia Tech

S29—Connecticut

O6—Syracuse

O13—at Temple

O20—Navy

N3—at West Virginia

N10—Pittsburgh

N17—Boston College

## DEPTH CHART Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Delrico Fletcher	6-1	190	Sr.
	Antoine Lovelace	6-2	185	So.
T	<b>Howard Blackwood</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Krzysztof Kaczorowski	6-6	300	So.
G	<b>Mike Esposito</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Brian Duffy	6-5	285	So.
C	<b>Jeremy Womack</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Mike Williamson	6-5	290	So.
G	<b>Travis Mills</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Rich McManis	6-5	320	So.
T	<b>Julian Ross</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Rob Dinsmore	6-5	275	Fr.*
TE	<b>L.J. Smith</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Rob Ring	6-4	250	Sr.
WR	David Stringer	6-0	205	Jr.
	Aaron Martin	6-4	2-5	Jr.
QB	Chad Schwenk	6-2	200	Jr.
	Chris Dapolito	6-4	215	Fr.*
RB	<b>Dennis Thomas</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jason Ohene	6-0	195	Sr.
FB	Seth Stanton	6-2	240	Sr.
	Troy Marion	6-1	210	Fr.*

## Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Torrance Heggie</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Will Burnett	6-4	250	Jr.
T	Ron Jenerette	6-4	250	So.
	John Comiskey	6-4	270	So.
T	<b>Greg Pyszczyk</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Marty Pyszczyk	6-2	260	So.
E	<b>Marcus Perry</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Bill Tulloch	6-3	255	Sr.
OLB	Brian Bender	6-2	210	Jr.
	Bill Hambrecht	6-2	215	So.
MLB	Raheem Orr	6-3	250	Jr.
	Dan Woodard	6-2	220	So.
OLB	<b>Nate Leonard</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Mitch Davis	6-1	220	So.
CB	<b>Brandon Haw</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Nate Jones	5-10	170	So.
SS	<b>Shawn Seabrooks</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Ben Martin	6-0	205	Sr.
FS	<b>Tarrel Freaney</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Nate Colon	5-10	190	Jr.
CB	<b>DeWayne Thompson</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Tony Berry	6-1	185	Sr.

## Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Steve Barone</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
P	<b>Mike Barr</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

Returning starters in bold

BIG EAST



## ACC

## This is the season to make a run at Florida State

By MATT HAYES

**T**hey're absolutely giddy on Tobacco Road these days. About football season, no less.

If ever there were a chance for the rest of the ACC to make a run at Florida State, this has to be it. The Seminoles have a new quarterback, a revamped defense and questions everywhere.

The team returns just 10 starters, the fewest under coach Bobby Bowden since 1993. Then again, those nine returning starters in '93 went on to help FSU win its first national title.

This much we know: It will take time for the 'Noles to adjust to a season of uncertainty. Just how much time—and how much adjustment—will be the key.

FSU needs a quarterback. Clemson and Georgia Tech have Heisman Trophy candidates at the position. The Seminoles need playmakers on a defense that returns just four starters, including no one at the key rush-end spot. Georgia Tech returns nine starters from an underrated defense primed for a big season.

Still, let's remember that Florida State is Florida State. And the rest of the ACC is, well, the rest of the ACC.

Georgia Tech and Clemson figure to be the biggest obstacles for the Seminoles in their quest for a 10th consecutive ACC championship and another spot in the Bowl Championship Series. But let's be honest: Florida State had reserves last year who could've started for the Tigers and Yellow Jackets.

The question is, just how will those reserves play when it matters most?

**Ascending:** Georgia Tech. There will be issues this season, most notably how the Jackets will respond to life without offensive coordinator and new Maryland coach Ralph Friedgen. But Tech has more playmakers on both sides than any other team in the league this side of Florida State. Coach George O'Leary has always been a strong recruiter. Now he's proving he can delegate and lead—and, more important, win.

**Descending:** Virginia. The Cavs pushed out George Welsh, the most successful coach in school history, and replaced him with former New York Jets coach Al Groh. Coaching wasn't the only reason Virginia was slipping from the upper echelon of the league. Recruiting suffered the last couple of years, with the team losing out on high-profile recruits to rival Virginia Tech. Groh's fiery attitude had better attract players, or the fall will be more than just a hiccup.



**LOW TIMES:** Maddox, a former high school sensation, is buried on the Florida State depth chart.

**Dream schedule:** Clemson. How many teams in the nation would like Central Florida, Wofford and Duke to start the season?

Throw in rebuilding Virginia, and the Tigers are 4-0 before breaking a sweat. There's a tough stretch at Georgia Tech and North Carolina State and the season finale at South Carolina, but the Tigers have enough to win all three. Finally, Papa Bowden and Florida State come to Death Valley—although by November 3, the 'Noles should have their quarterback situation straightened out and be hitting their stride.

**Nightmare schedule:** North Carolina. How's this for new coach John Bunting's housewarming gift: a trio of road games to start the season, against defending national champion Oklahoma, Maryland and TSN preseason No. 1 Texas. Later there are games at archival and emerging NC State, Clemson

and Georgia Tech and, for good measure, a home game against Conference USA favorite East Carolina.

**Best matchup:** We'll know early on if Florida State really will fall back to the pack this season. Georgia Tech travels to Tallahassee September 15, and there are numerous reasons for the Yellow Jackets to be excited about the possibilities. The 'Noles open against Duke and UAB, which is sort of like opening against their scout team. In other words, whoever is behind center for FSU—redshirt freshman Chris Rix, former WR Anquan Boldin or a true freshman—will see a considerable jump in talent against Tech.

**Ugliest matchup:** North Carolina at Texas. Think Mack Brown will have the Longhorns ready for this one? Brown left North Carolina after the 1997 season when the Tar Heels were emerging as a legitimate

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



threat to FSU. Now they're not even a threat to NC State. Texas has national-title hopes and an offense that can score on anyone, any time. Texas' physical, athletic wideouts will give UNC's undersized cornerbacks fits.

**Upset of the year:** It may take at least half the season for Maryland to get comfortable in Friedgen's system, but QB Shaun Hill and WR Guilian Gary eventually will flourish in the offense. Friedgen will return to Atlanta October 13, and Maryland will shock the Yellow Jackets, who will be coming off back-to-back draining games against FSU and Clemson. Maryland is athletic and fast on defense, and Friedgen knows what rattles Tech QB George Godsey.

**Bowl bound:** Florida State, Georgia Tech and Clemson are locks, and NC State, barring a collapse, seems assured of a spot, too. After that, it's a scramble—with two certainties: Duke and Wake Forest have no shot. That leaves Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland looking for the required number of victories. Don't count out the Terps, who have enough talent to qualify.

**Biggest shoes to fill:** Welcome to the world of the new FSU quarterback. All he has to do is follow Chris Weinke, who led Florida State to the national title two seasons ago and won last year's Heisman Trophy. If the 'Noles don't win the ACC and don't beat Miami or Florida, the blame will fall—fairly or not—on him. Now, who wants to be Rix or Boldin?

**Most overrated player:** Florida State TB Nick Maddox. He was supposed to push Travis Minor out of his job as a freshman but didn't, then asked to be moved to wide receiver as a sophomore and caught all of seven passes. The one-time high school All-American and "best back in the nation" is buried on the depth chart behind Greg Jones, a talented, bruising back who is the key to FSU's recommitment to the running game.

**Most underrated player:** Wake Forest S Michael Clinkscales. He's not the biggest guy on the field and certainly not the fastest, but he's one of the league's best playmakers. New coach Jim Grobe, who preaches defense first, will lean heavily on Clinkscales for leadership and big plays.

**Best coach:** It's kind of hard to go wrong here. Coaching in college football is as much about delegation and recruiting as game-day decisions. No one gets more out of his staff

than FSU's Bobby Bowden, and no one else in the country recruits like he can. Florida State has been playing football for only 50 years, yet it's clearly one of the best programs in the history of the sport—a tribute to Bowden.

**Best staff:** Tommy Bowden continues to add former head coaches to his staff at Clemson and continues to get quality recruiters in the process. The latest addition is Mike O'Cain, the former head coach at NC State who is the Tigers' quarterbacks coach. He recruited the players current NC State coach Chuck Amato used last year to win eight games.

**Coach on the hot seat:** Carl Franks, Duke. Florida coach Steve Spurrier personally recommended Franks to Duke athletic director and close friend Joe Alleva. The problem is, no one knew just how much rebuilding needed to be done. Franks is 3-19 in two years, including last year's winless season. Running Florida's Fun 'n' Gun and having the players to get it done are different things.

**Best bets:** Georgia Tech will beat Florida State in Tallahassee, snapping the Seminoles' 52-game home unbeaten streak, but the 'Noles still will win the ACC and an automatic BCS bid. ... NC State QB Philip Rivers, a freshman All-American last season, won't regress this season because of the loss of offensive coordinator Norm Chow to Southern California. New coordinator Michael Canales is a Chow protege. ...

Freshman WRs Roscoe Crosby and Airese Currie will help Clemson QB Woodrow Dantzler further develop as a passer. ... North Carolina QB Ronald Curry will have a better senior season in football than in basketball, eclipsing the 3,000-yard plateau in total offense. ... DEs Greg Gathers of Georgia Tech and Julius Peppers of North Carolina will combine for more than 30 sacks, and Gathers will lead the nation.

**Odds and ends:** Four new coaches will walk the sidelines this season, including two (Bunting and Groh) with extensive NFL experience. ... Eight of the ACC's top 10 rushers return, including 1,000-yard RBs Travis Zachery of Clemson and Antwoine Womack of Virginia. Seven of the nine starting quarterbacks also return. ... Georgia Tech, North Carolina and Virginia all will play in kickoff classics to begin the season, all at neutral sites.

## ALL-LEAGUE

FIRST TEAM				Offense		
Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.		
WR	Atreus Bell, Florida State	5-11	201	Sr.		
WR	Kelly Campbell, Georgia Tech	5-11	170	Sr.		
TE	Mike Hart, Duke	6-6	246	Sr.		
T	Brett Williams, Florida State	6-6	315	Jr.		
T	John Bennett, Georgia Tech	6-5	290	So.		
G	Will Merritt, Clemson	6-3	260	Sr.		
G	Montrae Holland, Florida State	6-3	325	Jr.		
C	Kyle Young, Clemson	6-3	280	Sr.		
QB	Woodrow Dantzler, Clemson	5-11	200	Sr.		
RB	Travis Zachery, Clemson	6-0	190	Sr.		
RB	Antwoine Womack, Virginia	6-0	215	Sr.		

Defense			
E	Julius Peppers, North Carolina	6-6	270 Jr.
E	Greg Gathers, Georgia Tech	6-1	260 Jr.
T	Darnell Dockett, Florida State	6-4	260 So.
T	Ryan Sims, North Carolina	6-4	285 Sr.
LB	Levar Fisher, NC State	6-1	229 Sr.
LB	Bradley Jennings, Florida State	6-3	230 Sr.
LB	Chad Carson, Clemson	6-3	235 Sr.
CB	Errol Hood, North Carolina	5-11	195 Sr.
CB	Malcolm Tatum, Florida State	6-1	170 Jr.
S	Chris Hope, Florida State	6-0	205 Sr.
S	Jeremy Muires, Georgia Tech	6-3	205 Jr.

Specialists			
K	Luke Manget, Georgia Tech	5-9	176 Jr.
P	Brooks Barnard, Maryland	6-2	182 Jr.
KR	Kelly Campbell, Georgia Tech	5-11	170 Sr.

Players of the year			
Offense: Woodrow Dantzler, QB, Clemson			
Defense: Julius Peppers, E, North Carolina			

SECOND TEAM				Offense		
Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.		
WR	Jackie Robinson, Clemson	6-1	190	Jr.		
WR	Kerry Watkins, Georgia Tech	5-11	186	Jr.		
TE	Willie Wright, NC State	6-4	226	Sr.		
T	Matt Crawford, Maryland	6-6	311	Jr.		
T	Chris Colmer, NC State	6-5	293	So.		
G	Evan Routzahn, Virginia	6-5	303	Sr.		
G	Michael Collins, Wake Forest	6-6	318	Sr.		
C	Melvin Fowler, Maryland	6-3	292	Sr.		
QB	George Godsey, Georgia Tech	6-2	205	Sr.		
RB	Joe Burns, Georgia Tech	5-10	205	Jr.		
RB	Tarence Williams, Wake Forest	5-10	178	Jr.		

Defense			
E	Nick Rogers, Georgia Tech	6-2	250 Sr.
E	Calvin Pace, Wake Forest	6-6	256 Jr.
T	Jeff Womble, Florida State	6-3	295 So.
T	Monsanto Pope, Virginia	6-4	285 Sr.
LB	Recardo Wimbush, Georgia Tech	6-1	218 Jr.
LB	Aaron Thompson, Maryland	6-1	234 Sr.
LB	Kendyll Pope, Florida State	6-2	212 So.
CB	Marvius Hester, Georgia Tech	5-11	170 Jr.
CB	Ronnie Hamilton, Duke	5-8	178 Sr.
S	Tony Jackson, Maryland	6-1	209 Sr.
S	Chris Young, Georgia Tech	6-1	207 Sr.

Specialists			
K	Jeff Reed, North Carolina	6-0	200 Sr.
P	Mike Abrams, Virginia	6-4	224 Sr.
KR	John Stone, Wake Forest	5-11	180 Sr.

Newcomers of the year			
Offense: Crapthons Thorpe, WR, Florida State			
Defense: Albert Poree, CB, Georgia Tech			

## UNIT RANKINGS

	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				Special Teams	
	Backfield	WRs	Line	Overall	Line	LBs	DBs	Overall	Coaching	
CLEMSON	1	3	1	1	4	3	4	4	3	2
DUKE	8	7	8	8	9	8	8	8	7	8
FLORIDA STATE	3	2	4	3	1	2	1	1	2	1
GEORGIA TECH	2	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	3
MARYLAND	7	8	7	7	7	5	6	6	8	5
NORTH CAROLINA	5	4	6	6	3	4	3	3	6	6
NC STATE	4	5	5	4	6	7	7	7	4	4
VIRGINIA	6	6	2	5	5	6	5	5	5	7
WAKE FOREST	9	9	9	9	8	9	9	9	9	9



## PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

### Offense

#### Woodrow Dantzler, QB, Clemson

Woodrow Dantzler entered the 2000 season as an intriguing mystery and ended it the same way. But in between, he proved his legitimacy as a Heisman candidate and the perfect weapon in Tommy Bowden's balanced, up-tempo offense. Only a knee injury in a key win at North Carolina slowed him down,

and if he's healthy in 2001 and if the Tigers beat Florida State in Death Valley, the senior quarterback should instantly leap to the top of the hype heap. Dantzler possesses a strong arm and the speed and escapist tendencies that would make any fugitive from justice green with envy. Thanks in large part to their quarterback, the Tigers ranked 10th in the country in rushing offense while having no individuals in the top 37. Clemson fans, who have always appreciated the run, got to see it out of a

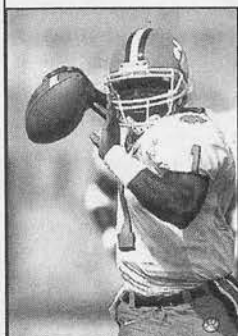
funky, pro-style, fun-to-watch formation. Offensive coordinator Rich Rodriguez is gone, having become head coach at West Virginia, but with new quarterbacks coach Mike O'Cain guiding Dantzler, it's widely assumed the Tigers will throw and run with equal precision. Dantzler has TB Travis Zachery to take some of the burden off him, and a solid group of receivers led by Jackie Robinson should help. And with the well-respected Clemson media relations machine pumping his Heisman campaign, don't be surprised if Dantzler at least gets an invite to the Downtown Athletic Club. The Tigers have as easy a schedule as you can imagine. They open with four straight home games—Central Florida, Wofford, Duke and Virginia—and get FSU at home as well. It may all play into Dantzler's favor. —Rob Daniels

### Defense

#### Julius Peppers, E, North Carolina

They are split between gushing and simply watching with mouths wide open. Onlookers of Julius Peppers—whether he's rushing quarterbacks or slamming dunks over covering forwards—can't help themselves. If he hadn't already made it, Peppers might have an interesting professional choice on his hands. The 6-6, 270-pounder came to North Carolina as a defensive end, and that's where his future is. And that future will almost certainly come after this season for the junior, who said last winter he'd be back on the football field for "one more year."

Opponents should be grateful it's not two. Peppers led the nation in sacks last year with 15 even though he admitted he practically took a couple games off. An entirely focused Peppers could be an overpowering sensory experience for the rest of the ACC because he has a quick first step off the ball and a quick leap that tends to make quarterbacks think twice before looking at receivers in his general direction. Opposing coaches have called him a freak, a man, a beast. But he can do only so much, and even with his tremendous 2000, the Tar Heels seldom forced turnovers and were vulnerable to the deep ball. If UNC is rendered irrelevant by a slow start against a tough schedule—at Oklahoma, at Texas, home vs. Florida State—Peppers may get overlooked in the minds of voters for various honors. But when it really matters, individually speaking, expect him to go high in the 2002 NFL draft. —R.D.



## 2000 INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### RUSHING returning players in bold

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	YPG
1. Antwoine Womack, Virginia, Jr.	11	210	1,028	4.9	9	93.5
2. Travis Zachery, Clemson, Jr.	11	201	1,012	5.0	13	92.0
3. Woodrow Dantzler, Clemson, Jr.	11	172	947	5.5	13	86.1
4. Travis Minor, Florida State, Sr.	12	181	923	5.1	5	76.9
5. LaMont Jordan, Maryland, Sr.	11	213	920	4.3	11	83.6
6. Joe Burns, Georgia Tech, So.	11	220	908	4.1	5	82.6
7. Ray Robinson, NC State, Jr.	11	193	788	4.1	7	71.6
8. Tarence Williams, Wake Forest, So.	11	130	661	5.1	7	60.1
9. Brandon Russell, North Carolina, Fr.	11	145	508	3.5	3	46.2
10. Chris Douglas, Duke, Fr.	11	110	503	4.6	6	45.7

### PASSING

Player, school, class	G	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	Yds./Att.	TD	Rating
1. Chris Weinke, Florida State, Sr.	12	431	266	.617	11	4,167	9.7	33	163.1
2. Philip Rivers, NC State, Fr.	11	441	237	.537	10	3,054	6.9	25	126.1
3. George Godsey, Georgia Tech, Jr.	11	349	222	.636	6	2,906	8.3	23	151.9
4. Ronald Curry, North Carolina, Jr.	11	304	163	.536	12	2,325	7.7	11	121.9
5. Woodrow Dantzler, Clemson, Jr.	11	212	122	.576	6	1,691	8.0	10	134.5
6. Dan Ellis, Virginia, Sr.	9	210	116	.552	4	1,642	7.8	7	128.1
7. Calvin McCall, Maryland, So.	9	199	105	.528	9	1,533	7.7	5	116.7
8. D. Bryant, Duke, So.	11	258	129	.500	10	1,448	5.6	5	95.8
9. James MacPherson, Wake, So.	11	207	113	.546	6	1,324	6.4	3	107.3
10. Willie Simmons, Clemson, Fr.	11	80	36	.450	2	616	7.7	7	133.6

### RECEIVING

Player, school, class	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	RPG	YPR
1. Marvin Minnis, Florida State, Sr.	12	63	1,340	11	5.3	21.3
2. Koren Robinson, NC State, So.	11	62	1,061	13	5.6	17.1
3. Kelly Campbell, Georgia Tech, Jr.	11	59	963	10	5.4	16.3
4. Rod Gardner, Clemson, Sr.	11	51	956	6	4.6	18.8
5. Atreus Bell, Florida State, Jr.	12	37	675	10	3.1	18.2
6. Anquan Boldin, Florida State, So.	12	41	664	6	3.4	16.2
7. Bosley Allen, North Carolina, So.	11	40	634	4	3.6	15.9
8. Fabian Davis, Wake Forest, So.	10	33	596	3	3.3	18.1
9. Guillian Gary, Maryland, Jr.	11	40	568	7	3.6	14.2
10. Kory Bailey, North Carolina, Jr.	10	32	550	2	3.2	17.2

## TEAM STATISTICS

### OFFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Clemson (10)	236.4	1. Florida State (1)	384.0	1. Florida State (1)	549.0
2. Florida State (33)	165.0	2. NC State (15)	292.5	2. Clemson (10)	446.5
3. Georgia Tech (35)	164.3	3. Georgia Tech (17)	271.1	3. Georgia Tech (15)	435.4
4. Virginia (36)	163.7	4. North Carolina (48)	222.6	4. NC State (19)	396.4
5. Wake Forest (54)	150.2	5. Maryland (59)	211.1	5. North Carolina (21)	371.1
6. North Carolina (55)	148.5	6. Clemson (63)	210.1	6. Virginia (68)	359.2
7. Maryland (79)	124.1	7. Duke (71)	198.5	7. Maryland (81)	335.2
8. NC State (96)	103.8	8. Virginia (75)	195.5	8. Wake Forest (83)	326.0
9. Duke (106)	81.7	9. Wake Forest (88)	175.8	9. Duke (106)	280.2

### DEFENSE

RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL	
School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG	School (NCAA rank)	YPG
1. Florida State (2)	73.9	1. NC State (18)	184.6	1. Florida State (6)	277.0
2. Georgia Tech (12)	94.5	2. Florida State (38)	203.1	2. North Carolina (30)	327.5
3. Clemson (18)	101.8	3. North Carolina (74)	224.0	3. Clemson (37)	340.5
4. North Carolina (19)	103.5	4. Wake Forest (81)	226.6	4. NC State (66)	375.6
5. Virginia (86)	184.5	5. Virginia (93)	237.5	5. Georgia Tech (70)	379.6
6. Duke (87)	185.4	6. Clemson (96)	238.6	6. Virginia (98)	421.9
7. Maryland (89)	186.1	7. Maryland (107)	253.9	7. Wake Forest (102)	432.9
8. NC State (92)	191.0	8. Duke (113)	272.4	8. Maryland (107)	440.0
9. Wake Forest (100)	206.4	9. Georgia Tech (114)	285.2	9. Duke (113)	457.7

Statistics do not include bowl games



# 1 Florida State

National Rank  
**7**

**Coach:** Bobby Bowden  
(242-55-4, 25 years; 315-87-4 overall, 35 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Jeff Bowden (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Mickey Andrews (17th season)

**Offensive scheme:** Pro set

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 15

**Lettermen lost:** 20

**Lettermen returning:** 61

**Site:** Gainesville, Fla.

**Stadium:** Doak Campbell  
(grass, 80,000)

**Last league title won:** 2000

**Last time didn't go to bowl:**  
1981

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 2

**2000 record:** 11-2 (lost to  
Oklahoma in Orange Bowl);  
ACC: 8-0/1st

**Website:** www.seminoles.com

## 2000 Results

BYU, W, 29-3

at Georgia Tech, W, 26-21

North Carolina, W, 63-14

Louisville, W, 31-0

at Maryland, W, 59-7

at Miami (Fla.), L, 27-24

Duke, W, 63-14

Virginia, W, 37-3

at NC State, W, 58-14

Clemson, W, 54-7

at Wake Forest, W, 35-6

Florida, W, 30-7

Oklahoma, L, 13-2

## Schedule

S1—at Duke

S8—Alabama-Birmingham

S15—Georgia Tech

S22—at North Carolina

S29—Wake Forest

O13—Miami (Fla.)

O20—at Virginia

O27—Maryland

N3—at Clemson

N10—NC State

N17—at Florida

## Game of the year

**Nov. 17—at Florida**

Better get the Seminoles early, because by the time late November rolls around, QB Chris Rix and the rest of the offense will be fine-tuned. FSU travels to Gainesville for its annual war with the Gators and could have a chance to keep Florida from playing for the national championship. Florida did it to FSU in 1997 in the same situation.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The Seminoles have plenty of talent, but most of it is unproven. The key will be getting consistent, mistake-free play from the new quarterback.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★

**Receivers:** ★★★★★

**Offensive line:** ★★★

**Defensive line:** ★★★

**Linebackers:** ★★★★★

**Secondary:** ★★★★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Robert Morgan	6-0	180	Sr.
	Talman Gardner	6-2	195	Jr.
T	<b>Brett Williams</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Alex Barron	6-6	290	Fr.*
G	Milford Brown	6-3	285	Jr.
	Ron Boldin	6-5	291	Sr.
C	Antoine Mirambeau	6-4	280	Jr.
	Josh Baggs	6-1	305	Sr.
G	<b>Montrae Holland</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Otis Duhart	6-4	290	Jr.
T	Todd Williams	6-6	300	Jr.
	Ray Willis	6-6	256	Fr.*
TE	Carver Donaldson	6-6	245	Sr.
	Patrick Hughes	6-5	245	Jr.
WR	<b>Atrewe Bell</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Javon Walker	6-3	190	Sr.
QB	Chris Rix	6-4	200	Fr.*
	Anquan Boldin	6-2	205	Jr.
RB	Davy Ford	5-11	188	Sr.
	Greg Jones	6-1	225	So.
FB	<b>William McCray</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Randy Goughly	6-2	237	So.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Kevin Emanuel	6-4	260	So.
	Eric Powell	6-4	270	Sr.
T	<b>Darnell Dockett</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Travis Johnson	6-5	240	Fr.*
T	<b>Jeff Womble</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Tony Benford	6-4	270	Jr.
E	Alonzo Jackson	6-4	245	Jr.
	Chris Howard	6-3	235	So.
OLB	Kendyll Pope	6-2	212	So.
	Michael Boulware	6-3	200	So.
MLB	<b>Bradley Jennings</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Jerel Hudson	6-3	260	Jr.
OLB	Ray Piquion	6-0	215	Fr.
	Lee Weaver	6-2	216	Sr.
CB	Malcolm Tatum	6-1	170	Jr.
	Bryant McFadden	6-0	185	Fr.*
RV	Abdual Howard	6-1	190	Sr.
	Claudius Osei	6-0	200	Fr.*
FS	<b>Chris Hope</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Gennaro Jackson	6-0	185	Sr.
CB	Stanford Samuels	5-10	180	So.
	Rufus Brown	5-9	175	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Brett Cimorelli</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>So.</b>
P	Chance Gwaltney	5-10	165	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**SIX SENSE:**  
Bell ranked  
third in the ACC  
with 10  
touchdown  
receptions.



**Offensive philosophy:** Ex-wide receivers coach Jeff Bowden, elevated to offensive coordinator following the departure of Mark Richt, spent much of the offseason looking at tapes of other pro and college teams in hopes of improving the Florida State running game. In fact, that was one of the directives from head coach Bobby Bowden, Jeff's father, after the Seminoles' 13-2 loss to Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl. Bowden had given Richt considerable leeway in recent years, but, when Richt was named head coach at Georgia, it was time for the Seminoles to take stock. In addition, the loss of Heisman Trophy winner Chris Weinke leaves FSU without a quarterback who has taken a snap in a college game. A dependable running game would help relieve some of the pressure on Weinke's successor.

**Offensive stars:** Florida State's offensive scheme and overall talent almost guarantees that the new quarterback, most likely Chris Rix, will put up numbers that will merit All-ACC consideration. However, there is no returning first-team All-ACC player on the roster, and the only returning second-team All-ACC player on offense is T Brett Williams. The top returning receiver, Anquan Boldin, was listed at both quarterback and wide receiver in the spring. Atrewe Bell did not have as many receptions as Boldin, but Bell's 10 touchdown receptions ranked behind only North Carolina State's Koren Robinson and Bell's ex-FSU teammate, Marvin "Snoop" Minnis, in the ACC.

**Offensive concerns:** It is rare for the Seminoles to turn their offense over to a redshirt freshman quarterback, even one as talented as Rix, who can throw the ball 70 yards and has been clocked at 4.5 seconds over 40 yards. There isn't much more experience at tailback, where off-injured fifth-year senior Davy Ford emerged from spring practice as the frontrunner. Ford, who has carried the ball just 118 times in his FSU career, missed one full season after surgery for a torn anterior cruciate ligament and suffered a fractured clavicle last year that kept him out of

BOB LEVINE/TSN

ATLANTIC COAST



the last three games. There is considerable depth at wide receiver with Bell, Boldin, Robert Morgan, Talman Gardner and Javon Walker, but this group failed to rise to the challenge when Minnis was ruled ineligible for the Orange Bowl.

**Defensive philosophy:** Bobby Bowden, who made his reputation as an offensive mastermind, is smart enough and secure enough to rely heavily on his defensive coordinator of 17 years, Mickey Andrews. "I've got the finest defensive coordinator in the nation and I just let him coach," Bowden says. To carry that one step further, Andrews has some of the finest defensive players in the nation and just lets them play. There will be holes to fill this year, but as long as the cornerback play is solid, Florida State should be fine. Everything the Seminoles do is based on one-on-one pass coverage.

**Defensive stars:** Darnell Dockett established himself as a star in the making during a freshman year in which he led all FSU defensive linemen in tackles with 66 and shared the team lead in tackles for loss with 18. There might not be a better trio of sophomore defensive linemen in the country than Dockett at tackle, Jeff Womble at nose and ex-tackle Kevin Emanuel at end. Womble had 10 tackles for loss last season. Dockett and FS Chris Hope are the only returning Florida State defensive players chosen as high as second-team All-ACC, but it may be time to recognize LB Bradley Jennings, who tied Brian Allen for the team lead in tackles with 102. Nicknamed "Monster," Jennings is being touted by FSU as a possible All-American.

**Defensive concerns:** Andrews is worried about his flanks after losing two defensive ends (Jamal Reynolds and David Warren), two outside linebackers (Tommy Polley and Allen) and two corners (Tay Cody and Clevan Thomas). Reynolds and Cody were consensus All-Americans, and they were joined on the All-ACC first team by Polley and S Derrick Gibson. That's a lot of experience and a lot of talent lost at the same time. The top backups from last year have been thrust into starting roles, leaving the Seminoles with little depth. Hope intercepted two passes last year, but no other returning player had more than one interception.

**Special teams:** The Seminoles knew they would miss K Sebastian Janikowski, a first-round draft pick of the Oakland Raiders after forgoing his senior year, but little did they realize how much. The trio of Brett Cimorelli, Chance Gwaltney and Matt Munyon combined to go 14-of-24 on field goals (including 1-of-5 inside the 40). One of those was a 49-yard attempt by Munyon that could have sent the Seminoles into overtime with Miami, the only team to beat FSU (27-24) during the regular season. Cimorelli won the kicking job in the spring, Munyon was designated as the kickoff specialist (until an off-season arrest) and Gwaltney was listed as the No. 1 punter. The Seminoles can only hope the transition from ever-dependable P Keith Cottrell to Gwaltney goes more smoothly than the change in kickers. Remarkably, Florida State did not have a kickoff return for more than 35 yards in 2000 and was one of three ACC teams (Maryland and Virginia were the others) that failed to return a kickoff or punt for a touchdown.

**Coaching staff:** Bobby Bowden moved quickly to name Daryl Dickey as the replacement for Richt as quarterbacks coach, with the understanding that his son would move up to offensive coordinator. That was before school officials invoked the nepotism rule in effect in the Florida college system and placed the Jeff Bowden promotion in jeopardy. Ultimately, the dilemma was resolved when 26-year assis-



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

**MONSTER PRESENCE:** Jennings shared the Florida State team lead with 102 tackles last season.

tant Jim Gladden, who coaches the defensive ends, was named associate head coach. Gladden will report to Bobby Bowden and the coordinators will report to Gladden.

**Bottom line:** Florida State traditionally plays one of the toughest schedules in the ACC and, with the presence of perennial in-state and national powers Miami and Florida, that hasn't changed. Nevertheless, the Seminoles clearly took into account the loss of 12 starters when they arranged this year's slate. Florida State travels to Duke in Week 1, then entertains Alabama-Birmingham before receiving its first big test September 15, when Georgia Tech comes to Tallahassee. Florida State is 36-0 in ACC home games since joining the conference in 1992 and that isn't likely to change this year, but the Seminoles must concern themselves with a late-season date at Clemson, presumably smarting from a 54-7 loss at Doak Campbell Stadium last year. Despite the heavy personnel losses, don't be surprised to see Florida State take a 10-0 record into its regular-season finale at Florida. —D.D.

## TSNumber

# 14

The record number of consecutive years the Seminoles have finished in the Associated Press final top five. To

make it 15 in a row would be a major accomplishment for a team that has lost 15 starters, including the likes of WR Snoop Minnis, QB Chris Weinke, SS Derrick Gibson and RB Travis Minor. Despite that wild run of consistency, Florida State has captured only two national titles (1993 and '99).



# 2 Georgia Tech

**National Rank**  
**12**

**Coach:** George O'Leary (45-28, 6 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Bill O'Brien (1st season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Ted Roof (3rd season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 6  
**Lettermen lost:** 14  
**Lettermen returning:** 47  
**Site:** Atlanta  
**Stadium:** Bobby Dodd (grass, 46,000)  
**Last league title won:** 1998 (tie)  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1996  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 52  
**2000 record:** 9-3 (lost to LSU in Peach Bowl); ACC: 6-2/2nd  
**Website:** www.ramblinwreck.com

## 2000 Results

Central Florida, W, 21-17  
Florida State, L, 26-21  
Navy, W, 40-13  
at NC State, L, 30-23  
at North Carolina, W, 42-28  
Wake Forest, W, 52-20  
Duke, W, 45-10  
at Clemson, W, 31-28  
Virginia, W, 35-0  
at Maryland, W, 35-22  
at Georgia, W, 27-15  
LSU, L, 28-14

## Schedule

A26—Syracuse  
S11—The Citadel  
S8—at Navy  
**S15—at Florida State**  
S29—Clemson  
O6—at Duke  
O13—Maryland  
O20—NC State  
N1—North Carolina  
N10—at Virginia  
N17—at Wake Forest  
N24—Georgia

## Game of the year

**Sept. 15—at Florida State**  
If there's ever a time when an ACC team actually wants the 'Noles, it's three weeks into FSU's season of uncertainty. Make no mistake, the 'Noles will be very good. But Tech catches them at the right time, with inexperienced FSU QB Chris Rix still learning the offense. A hot George Godsey and shaky FSU secondary would translate into an upset.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The Yellow Jackets should have one of the nation's top offenses. The only thing that might hold down the defense is the secondary.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★★★  
**Receivers:** ★★★★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★★  
**Secondary:** ★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

Offense				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Nate Curry	5-10	186	So.
	Kerry Watkins	5-11	186	Jr.
T	Leon Robinson	6-4	290	Fr.*
	Garren Findlay	6-5	290	Jr.
G	<b>R. Roberts-Blake</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Jason Kemble	6-4	299	Sr.
C	<b>David Schmidgall</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Clay Hartley	6-4	280	So.
G	Hugh Reilly	6-4	279	So.
	Brian Meager	6-5	275	Sr.
T	<b>John Bennett</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Jeremy Phillips	6-7	295	Fr.*
TE	<b>Russell Matvay</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Will Heller	6-6	255	Jr.
WR	<b>Kelly Campbell</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Will Glover	5-10	178	Jr.
QB	<b>George Godsey</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Andy Hall	6-2	190	So.
RB	<b>Joe Burns</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Sean Gregory	6-0	211	Sr.
FB	Ross Mitchell	6-2	242	Sr.
	Johnathan Jackson	6-2	225	Fr.*

Defense				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Greg Gathers</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Hobie Holiday	6-3	245	So.
T	Casey Loesch	6-3	275	Jr.
	Reggie Koon	6-4	295	So.
T	<b>Merrix Watson</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Gary Johnson	6-1	265	Jr.
E	<b>Nick Rogers</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Fred Wright	6-4	250	Jr.
OLB	<b>Recardo Wimbush</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Keyaron Fox	6-3	210	So.
MLB	<b>Daryl Smith</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Matt Miller	6-4	250	So.
OLB	<b>Ather Brown</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Anthony Lawston	6-3	220	So.
CB	Marvious Hester	5-11	170	Jr.
	Tony Hollings	5-10	203	So.
SS	<b>Chris Young</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Cory Collins	5-11	194	Jr.
FS	<b>Jeremy Muires</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Sterling Green	6-2	195	So.
CB	Albert Poree	5-10	190	So.
	Jonathan Cox	5-10	185	So.

Special Teams				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Luke Manget</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
P	<b>Dan Dyke</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** The Yellow Jackets made the transition from ACC player of the year Joe Hamilton to career backup QB George Godsey almost seamlessly, despite Hamilton's all-purpose skills and Godsey's limitations, mostly as a runner. Much of the credit went to former offensive coordinator Ralph Friedgen and his inspired play-calling, but Friedgen left Georgia Tech after the 2000 season to become the head coach at Maryland, his alma mater. Coach George O'Leary wasted little time in naming Bill O'Brien, the Yellow Jackets' running backs coach for three seasons, to succeed Friedgen. O'Brien has spent six seasons at Tech, all with the offense, and is likely to keep many of Friedgen's principles, but make no mistake: Friedgen will be missed. Rival coaches said Tech's offense was among the most difficult to defend because of its many variations.

**Offensive stars:** Godsey, viewed as a question mark before last season, demonstrated great poise and decision-making throughout the campaign. He finished sixth in Division I-A passing efficiency with 2,906 yards, 23 touchdowns passes and only six interceptions. He was named second-team All-ACC (behind Heisman Trophy winner Chris Weinke of Florida State) and joins Clemson's Woodrow Dantzler as a leading candidate for first-team honors this year. Kelly Campbell dropped from first-team All-ACC as a sophomore to second team last year, but he remains one of the most dangerous wide receivers in the league. After setting a school record with 10 touchdown receptions in 1999, he tied the record last year. The only reason Campbell's total receptions dropped from 69 to 59 was the presence of three other gifted receivers in Kerry Watkins, Will Glover and Nate Curry. Opponents cannot afford to concentrate on Tech's passing game because of TB Joe Burns, who returned from a broken ankle and hardship year in 1999 to rush for a career-high 908 yards.

**Offensive concerns:** A torn anterior cruciate ligament suffered in the waning moments of the Peach Bowl forced Godsey to miss spring practice. But Godsey, after surgery, should be ready for full-scale workouts by August. Nevertheless, he will miss the protection offered by departed All-American LT Chris Brown and All-ACC RG Brent Key. Georgia Tech was virtually unstoppable down the stretch, scoring 27 points or more in seven straight games, but a red flag was raised when LSU held the Yellow Jackets scoreless in the second half of the Peach Bowl and rallied for a 28-14 victory.

**Defensive philosophy:** O'Leary, who was defensive coordinator for Bobby Ross on Georgia Tech's national co-championship team in

1990, returned to Tech as coordinator in 1994 in hopes of reviving the ill-fated Bill Lewis regime. When Lewis resigned in advance of his anticipated firing, O'Leary was elevated to head coach, and the program made steady progress. Ironically, much of the progress came on the offensive end as O'Leary made several changes before settling on alumnus Ted Roof as defensive coordinator in 1999. Georgia Tech has become more of an attacking defense under Roof, but the biggest thing Roof has brought to the unit is stability.

**Defensive stars:** E Greg Gathers, unheralded as a freshman in 1999 despite totaling 11 tackles for loss and starting every game, was named first-team All-ACC and emerged as an All-American candidate after amassing 20 tackles for loss (13 on sacks) as a sophomore. Gathers, who wasn't redshirted, has started every game in the past two seasons and has at least one sack in 13 of the last 15 games. Opponents who try to double-team Gathers will find comparable pressure from the other end, Nick Rogers, who had 13 tackles for loss and nine sacks. One of the keys for Tech last season was the development of Daryl Smith, who, as a true freshman, unseated vet-

## TSNumber

**36**

Players off last year's two-deep who are returning. The Yellow Jackets will feature five returning first- or second-team All-ACC players. No other team in the conference can claim more than three. Georgia Tech's defense is an especially veteran unit, as nine of 11 starters are back. The group will be paced by standout Es Greg Gathers, a junior, and Nick Rogers, a senior, and sophomore LB Daryl Smith.



**SHOW OF HANDS:**

*One of the most dangerous receivers in the ACC, Campbell is part of a versatile Tech offense.*

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

and partially a reflection of him. Manget, a junior, has improved his distance and consistency a little more each year. For the second straight year, none of the ACC's principal punters had fewer attempts than the Yellow Jackets' Dan Dyke. His average dropped from 43.8 yards per punt in 1999 to 41.8 last year, but 13 of his 34 punts were downed inside the opponents' 20-yard line. Tech led the ACC in kickoff return yardage (23.5 average) and was first in kickoff return coverage (16.4), not a bad combination.

**Coaching staff:** All eyes will be on the offensive staff, especially O'Brien, 31. Glenn Spencer, who succeeds O'Brien as running backs coach, is returning to his alma mater after 11 seasons at West Georgia. Tight ends coach Geoff Collins, 30, was a graduate assistant until this year. Receivers coach David Kelly is on his second year on the staff, while offensive line coach Mac McWhorter is in his second year under O'Leary. So some growing pains will be understandable. At least new defensive line coach Peter McCarty, who coached at Illinois the past four seasons, has the benefit of five seasons of ACC experi-

ence (Maryland, 1992-96).  
**Bottom line:** The Yellow Jackets should be an offensive powerhouse again, provided the offensive line can perform up to its 1999-2000 standards. After having a preseason game with Virginia Tech canceled by lightning last year, Tech will try again when it meets Syracuse on August 26 in the Kickoff Classic in East Rutherford, N.J. Tech originally was scheduled to open with The Citadel and Navy, setting the stage for a 2-0 start before its September 15 visit to Florida State. The Yellow Jackets are catching rebuilding Florida State at a good time—if there is such a thing—and then will have a week's break before entertaining Clemson. With four of the last seven games at home, the stage is set for another late-season charge. —D.D.

eran Matt Miller at middle linebacker and led the team in tackles. A secondary headed by second-team All-ACC FS Jeremy Muyres and veterans Chris Young and Marvious Hester may be the best of the O'Leary tenure.  
**Defensive concerns:** LSU's Peach Bowl comeback was not the first time a team had come from behind to scare and/or beat the Yellow Jackets last year. Georgia trailed 27-3 in the regular-season finale before scoring two third-quarter touchdowns to make a game of it. Only Wake Forest and Duke gave up more touchdown passes in the ACC than Georgia Tech (19). Third-down defense was a major area of emphasis going into the spring.

**Special teams:** Luke Manget led ACC kickers in scoring last year, partially a reflection of the Yellow Jackets' high-powered offense

ence (Maryland, 1992-96).

**Bottom line:** The Yellow Jackets should be an offensive powerhouse again, provided the offensive line can perform up to its 1999-2000 standards. After having a preseason game with Virginia Tech canceled by lightning last year, Tech will try again when it meets Syracuse on August 26 in the Kickoff Classic in East Rutherford, N.J. Tech originally was scheduled to open with The Citadel and Navy, setting the stage for a 2-0 start before its September 15 visit to Florida State. The Yellow Jackets are catching rebuilding Florida State at a good time—if there is such a thing—and then will have a week's break before entertaining Clemson. With four of the last seven games at home, the stage is set for another late-season charge. —D.D.



**National Rank**  
**18**

**Coach:** Tommy Bowden (15-9, 2 years; 33-13 overall, 4 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Brad Scott (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:**

Reggie Herring (5th season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** 4-2, Multiple

**Starters lost:** 11

**Lettermen lost:** 20

**Lettermen returning:** 54

**Site:** Clemson, S.C.

**Stadium:** Clemson Memorial (Death Valley) (grass, 81,473)

**Last league title won:** 1991

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1998

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 23

**2000 record:** 9-3 (lost to

Virginia Tech in Gator Bowl);

ACC: 6-2/2nd

**Website:**

www.clemsonigers.com

## 2000 Results

The Citadel, W, 38-0

Missouri, W, 62-9

Wake Forest, W, 55-7

at Virginia, W, 31-10

at Duke, W, 52-22

NC State, W, 34-27

Maryland, W, 35-14

at North Carolina, W, 38-24

Georgia Tech, L, 31-28

at Florida State, L, 54-7

South Carolina, W, 16-14

Virginia Tech, L, 41-20

## Schedule

S1—Central Florida

S8—Wofford

S15—Duke

S22—Virginia

S29—at Georgia Tech

O11—at NC State

O20—North Carolina

O27—at Wake Forest

**N3—Florida State**

N10—at Maryland

N17—at South Carolina

## Game of the year

**Nov. 3—Florida State**

A home loss to Georgia Tech prevented the Tigers from taking an undefeated record to Florida State last year. A trip to Wake Forest is unlikely to take the edge off this year's meeting at Death Valley, aka Bowden Bowl III. Just remember: The Seminoles have lost just two ACC games (1995 at Virginia and '98 at NC State) since joining the league in '92.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The defense, a weak point last year, again might ruin what appears to be a dynamic offense that will count on several young receivers to emerge.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★★★

**Receivers:** ★★

**Offensive line:** ★★

**Defensive line:** ★★

**Linebackers:** ★★

**Secondary:** ★★

**Key:** based on a four-star system

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jackie Robinson	6-1	190	Jr.
	Matt Bailey	6-4	220	Sr.
T	Akil Smith	6-4	290	Jr.
	Nate Gillespie	6-3	271	So.
G	Will Merritt	6-3	260	Sr.
	Nick Black	6-5	280	So.
C	Kyle Young	6-3	280	Sr.
	Brian Outlaw	6-2	245	Sr.
G	T.J. Watkins	6-3	275	Sr.
	Cedric Johnson	6-4	317	Fr.*
T	Gary Byrd	6-4	305	Jr.
	Derrick Brantley	6-5	287	Jr.
TE	Morgan Woodward	6-0	212	Sr.
	Todd McClinton	6-6	275	So.
WR	Kevin Youngblood	6-5	210	So.
	Joe Don Reames	5-10	185	Jr.
QB	Woodrow Dantzler	5-11	200	Sr.
	Willie Simmons	6-1	190	So.
RB	Travis Zachery	6-0	190	Sr.
	Bernard Rambert	6-0	200	Jr.
FB	Chad Jasmin	5-10	214	So.
	Keith Kelly	6-0	215	So.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Bryant McNeal	6-5	235	Jr.
	J.J. Howard	6-3	220	So.
T	Nick Eason	6-4	255	Jr.
	Donnell Washington	6-6	320	Fr.*
T	Jovon Bush	6-5	305	Sr.
	DeJuan Polk	6-2	265	So.
E	Khaleed Vaughan	6-4	260	So.
	Marcus Lewis	6-2	255	So.
LB	Altroy Bodrick	6-1	208	Sr.
	Rodney Feaster	6-0	210	Jr.
LB	Chad Carson	6-3	235	Sr.
	Rodney Thomas	6-0	215	Jr.
ROV	Braxton K. Williams	6-2	203	Sr.
	John Leake	6-2	210	So.
CB	Brian Mance	5-11	185	Jr.
	Toure Francis	5-10	184	So.
SS	Charles Hafley	6-1	195	Sr.
	Marcus Houskin	6-0	200	So.
FS	Eric Meekins	6-2	190	Jr.
	Ronnie Delusme	6-2	185	Fr.*
CB	Kevin Johnson	6-0	185	So.
	Ryan Hemby	5-10	175	Fr.*

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Aaron Hunt	5-11	210	So.
P	Wynn Kopp	5-9	172	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** Don't expect too many changes, despite the departure of coordinator Rich Rodriguez, who returned to his alma mater, West Virginia, to become head coach. Ex-South Carolina coach Brad Scott is the new offensive coordinator and former North Carolina State coach Mike O'Cain takes over as quarterbacks coach, but this is still Tommy Bowden's offense. The Bowdens are famous for spreading the field, but Clemson was one of six Division I-A teams to average at least 200 yards passing and 200 yards rushing last year. The Tigers get their rushing yardage in an unconventional manner, thanks to Woodrow Dantzler, described by opposing coaches as a running back playing quarterback. When Willie Simmons is at quarterback, Clemson runs more of a pro-style offense, a tribute to Bowden's flexibility.

**Offensive stars:** Dantzler was leading the ACC in rushing and attracting considerable Heisman Trophy consideration before he suffered a leg injury in the eighth game of last season. Dantzler did not miss a game, but the injury clearly reduced his effectiveness. He finished with 2,899 yards in total offense, one of 16 school records he set last season. Simmons stepped in for Dantzler during the season and operated the No. 1 offense throughout spring practice, completing 21 of 39 passes for 240 yards in the Orange-White spring game. Unless the two split time, Dantzler or Simmons could be a candidate for postseason honors.

Travis Zachery, in and out of

Bowden's doghouse throughout his career, last season became the eighth running back in Clemson history to rush for 1,000 yards and was named first-team All-ACC. It helps to run behind the Tigers' best offensive line in years, led by first-team All-ACC C Kyle Young.

**Offensive concerns:** Neither Dantzler nor Zachery participated in spring practice, mostly for precautionary reasons. Much was made of Dantzler's lingering lower-leg problems, which required offseason surgery, but Zachery's injury was somewhat overlooked following a 41-20 loss to Virginia Tech in the Gator Bowl. Zachery suffered a fractured ankle in the first quarter, after rushing for 15 yards, but should be at full speed by the fall. The biggest loss offensively will be WR Rod Gardner, the first player in Clemson history to have 1,000 receiving yards in a season (counting the Gator Bowl). Kevin Youngblood, who followed Gardner at Raines High School in Jacksonville, Fla., had 11 receptions for 142 yards in the spring game. Bowden won't hesitate to use freshmen after signing three of the top wide receivers in the nation.

**Defensive philosophy:** Longtime coordinator Reggie Herring reacted to late-season breakdowns in the secondary by installing a new 4-2-5 defense that will feature a new position, star safety, that contains elements of the outside linebacker and safety positions. Veteran Braxton K. Williams will fill that spot. The Tigers also like what they saw this spring from John Leake, who was purely a special-teams performer last year. Leake had 10 tackles and returned an interception for a touchdown in the spring game.

**Defensive stars:** DT Nick Eason, named defensive MVP last year on a unit that had two All-Americans and two other first-team All-ACC selections, suffered a torn Achilles tendon in workouts prior to the Gator Bowl but is expected to be ready for the fall. Eason was second on the team in tackles for loss (11) and tied for the team lead in sacks with seven. Even more unsung was LB Chad Carson, who finished second in the ACC in tackles with 146 but did not make first- or second-team all-conference. The leader of the secondary will be SS Charles Hafley, who had 106 tackles to go with eight pass break-ups.

**Defensive concerns:** It will be difficult for a player to duplicate the productivity of LB Keith Adams, who passed up his final season of eligibility after making first-team All-ACC for the second year in a row. Adams did not match his astronomical numbers from 1999, when he was named ACC Defensive Player of the Year, but he did finish third in the league in tackles (138) and tackles for loss (19). The Tigers also lost

## TSNumber

**190**

QB Woodrow Dantzler's carries last season en route to running for a team-best

1,028 yards. The Tigers may want to reduce that figure to lessen the wear on Dantzler. But should he go down, Clemson has a competent backup in Willie Simmons. He came off the bench for an injured Dantzler and tossed four TD passes last year against North Carolina.

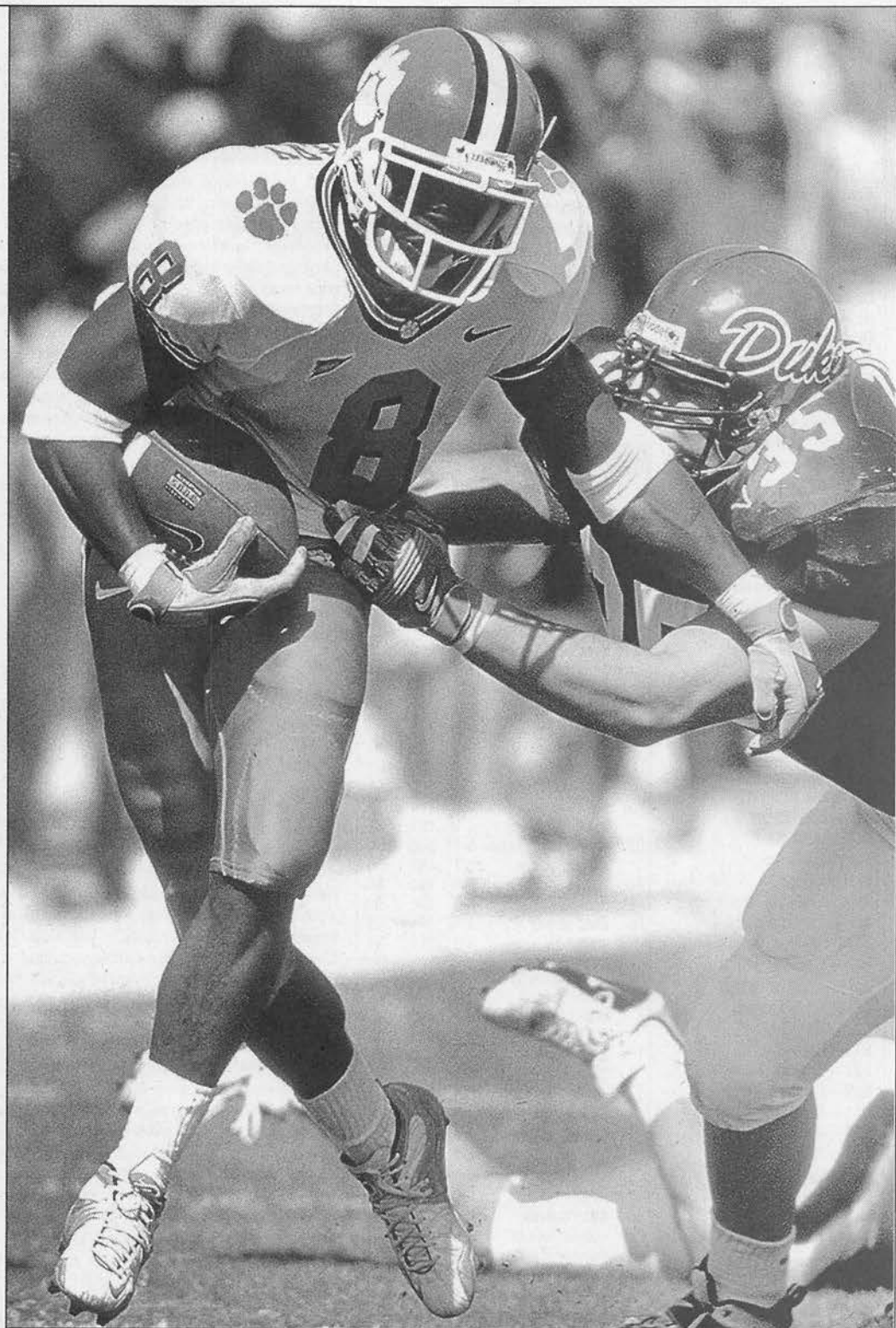


ACC interception leader Alex Ardley, a volatile cornerback whose sideline tirade at the Peach Bowl was caught by television cameras and proved to be his last act as a Tiger. Bowden announced shortly after the game that Ardley would not return. Add to that the departure of FS Robert Carswell, a Thorpe Award finalist, and Clemson has much to prove in the secondary.

**Special teams:** Bowden swears that the Tigers will have an improved kicking game, but that's not saying much. Although Aaron Hunt made 10 of 16 field-goal attempts as a freshman, he was hardly a weapon. That's why it brought such a rise out of the crowd when Hunt kicked a 49-yard field goal in the spring game. His longest field goal last year was 31 yards. With P Jamie Somaini having exhausted his eligibility, the Tigers have high hopes for Wynn Kopp, a transfer from Georgia. Kopp had 82 punts in two seasons at Georgia, and his 36.9-yard net punting average in 1999 is higher than any Clemson punter has achieved since 1995. Clemson finished 14th in Division I-A in punt returns last year, getting touchdown returns from Brian Mance and Joe Don Reames, and got a whopping 26 special-teams tackles from Rodney Thomas. That set a school record.

**Coaching staff:** Scott, who knows the Bowden system well from his days as an assistant at Florida State, will call the plays. The calls go through Bowden, who has veto power, but much of the offensive game plan is scripted in advance. It was a real coup for Bowden to get O'Cain, a Clemson graduate and former quarterback who was well respected as the head coach at North Carolina State and in his one season as offensive coordinator at North Carolina. When Bowden resisted overtures from Alabama and other top programs, it demonstrated the stability that has allowed him to attract top assistants.

**Bottom line:** Clemson will open the season with consecutive home games against Central Florida, Wofford, Duke and Virginia, a schedule that should put the Tigers at 4-0 heading into road games with



**FULL SPEED AHEAD:** The Tigers are counting on a full recovery by Zachery, who fractured an ankle in last season's bowl loss and missed all of spring practice.

a pair of 2000 bowl teams, Georgia Tech and North Carolina State. A program with Clemson's aspirations should do better than Central Florida and Wofford as two of the three opponents on its non-conference slate. Overall, the Tigers have some legitimate defensive concerns. After an 8-0 start, only some last-minute heroics against South Carolina prevented them from losing their last four games of 2000. Fans need to be ready for some high-scoring affairs. —D.D.



**National Rank**  
**38**

**Coach:** Chuck Amato (8-4, 1 year)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Marty Galbraith (1st season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Buddy Green (1st season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 8  
**Lettermen lost:** 15  
**Lettermen returning:** 42  
**Site:** Raleigh, N.C.  
**Stadium:** Carter-Finley (grass, 51,500).  
**Last league title won:** 1979  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1998  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 62  
**2000 record:** 8-4 (beat Minnesota in Micronpc.com Bowl); ACC: 4-4/5th  
**Website:** www.gopack.com

## 2000 Results

Arkansas State, W, 38-31 (OT)  
at Indiana, W, 41-38  
Southern Methodist, W, 41-0  
Georgia Tech, W, 30-23 (OT)  
at Clemson, L, 34-27  
at North Carolina, W, 38-20  
Florida State, L, 58-14  
at Maryland, L, 35-28 (OT)  
Duke, W, 35-31  
at Virginia, L, 24-17  
Wake Forest, W, 32-14  
Minnesota, W, 38-30

## Schedule

S1—Ohio  
S8—Indiana  
S22—at SMU  
S29—North Carolina  
O6—at Wake Forest  
**O13—Clemson**  
O20—at Georgia Tech  
O27—Virginia  
N3—at Duke  
N10—at Florida State  
N17—Maryland

## Game of the year

**Oct. 13—Clemson**  
A packed house will watch as former Wolfpack coach Mike O'Cain returns to Carter-Finley Stadium for the first time since his controversial firing after the 1999 season. O'Cain, UNC's offensive coordinator last year, is in his first year as Clemson's quarterbacks coach. He is still close with numerous Wolfpack players.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The offense looks set, but the departure of coordinator Norm Chow might hurt. The Pack might have the best defense you've never heard of.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★★★  
**Receivers:** ★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★★  
**Secondary:** ★★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jerricho Cotchery	6-2	183	So.
	Andy Bertrand	6-1	191	So.
T	<b>Chris Colmer</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Matt Broel	6-5	298	Sr.
G	<b>William Brown</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Travis Brinson	6-3	257	So.
C	Keegan Weir	6-5	258	Sr.
	<b>Derek Green</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
G	Joe Lardino	6-3	279	Jr.
	Tim Turner	6-6	301	Jr.
T	<b>Reggie Poole</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Scott Kooistra	6-6	304	Jr.
TE	<b>Willie Wright</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Andy Vanderveer	6-4	245	Sr.
WR	Bryan Peterson	5-10	187	Jr.
	Troy Graham	6-2	188	So.
QB	<b>Philip Rivers</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Olin Hannum	6-1	196	Sr.
RB	<b>Ray Robinson</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	K.J. Stone	5-11	190	Jr.
FB	Chance Moyer	6-4	230	Fr.*
	Cotra Jackson	5-11	215	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Corey Smith</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	George Anderson	6-0	231	Jr.
T	Ricky Fowler	6-2	286	So.
	<b>Darius Bryant</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
T	Jerrick Hall	6-1	280	Jr.
	Sean Locklear	6-3	290	So.
E	Sean Locklear	6-3	290	So.
	Shane Riggs	6-3	269	Jr.
OLB	Brian Jamison	6-1	224	Sr.
	Roger Pollard	6-1	212	So.
MLB	<b>Dantonio Burnette</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Brian Jamison	6-1	224	Sr.
OLB	<b>Levar Fisher</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Roger Pollard	6-1	212	So.
CB	<b>James Walker</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>So.</b>
	Victor Stephens	6-2	173	So.
SS	Julius Patterson	5-10	184	Jr.
	J.J. Jones	5-11	163	Fr.
FS	<b>Terrence Holt</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Rod Johnson	5-9	177	Jr.
CB	<b>Brian Williams</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	J.J. Washington	5-7	180	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Austin Herbert	6-1	204	So.
P	<b>Austin Herbert</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>So.</b>

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*

**Offensive philosophy:** There is no apparent need to deviate from the ball-control, intermediate-pass offense installed with great success by coordinator Norm Chow in 2000. Chow has gone to USC, but new chief Marty Galbraith will probably adhere to many of the principles that helped acclimate QB Philip Rivers to college ball so quickly. One difference may be the amount of work given to TB Ray Robinson, the 1998 ACC Rookie of the Year. Robinson may get a few more touches, at least early on, than he received last year. Galbraith has a penchant for innovation as evidenced by the work he did with players such as Chad Pennington at Marshall.

**Offensive stars:** Rivers was the only choice for ACC rookie award last year, as he spent the season—particularly the first half of it—trashing the State record book and threatening national marks for freshmen. Mechanically speaking, he is not the NFL prototype. His motions look stilted rather than fluid, and he will not beat you with his legs. He does make good decisions and is accurate. Robinson averaged 4 yards a carry last year and is in State's all-time top 10 in rushing yardage. TE Willie Wright emerged last year as a target—particularly in times of pressure. Perhaps the most intriguing offensive player will be backup FB Cotra Jackson, who ran all over North Carolina to help the Pack pull away in a pivotal game for both teams last year. If Robinson struggles or is injured, as he often has been, will Jackson, who can play tailback, be an instant-offense replacement?

**Defensive concerns:** The deep threat, a fixture in Wolfpack football from Haywood Jeffries to Torry Holt to Koren Robinson, is a major question mark for the first time in 15 years. Robinson bolted for the NFL a year early and took his 62 catches and 13 touchdowns with him. That leaves Jerricho Cotchery and Bryan Peterson as the only returnees with experience at wide receiver, and it means a couple of true freshmen will have opportunities for immediate playing time. In fact, signees Dovonte Edwards and Fred Span will get serious looks because the Pack may not be able to wait for them.

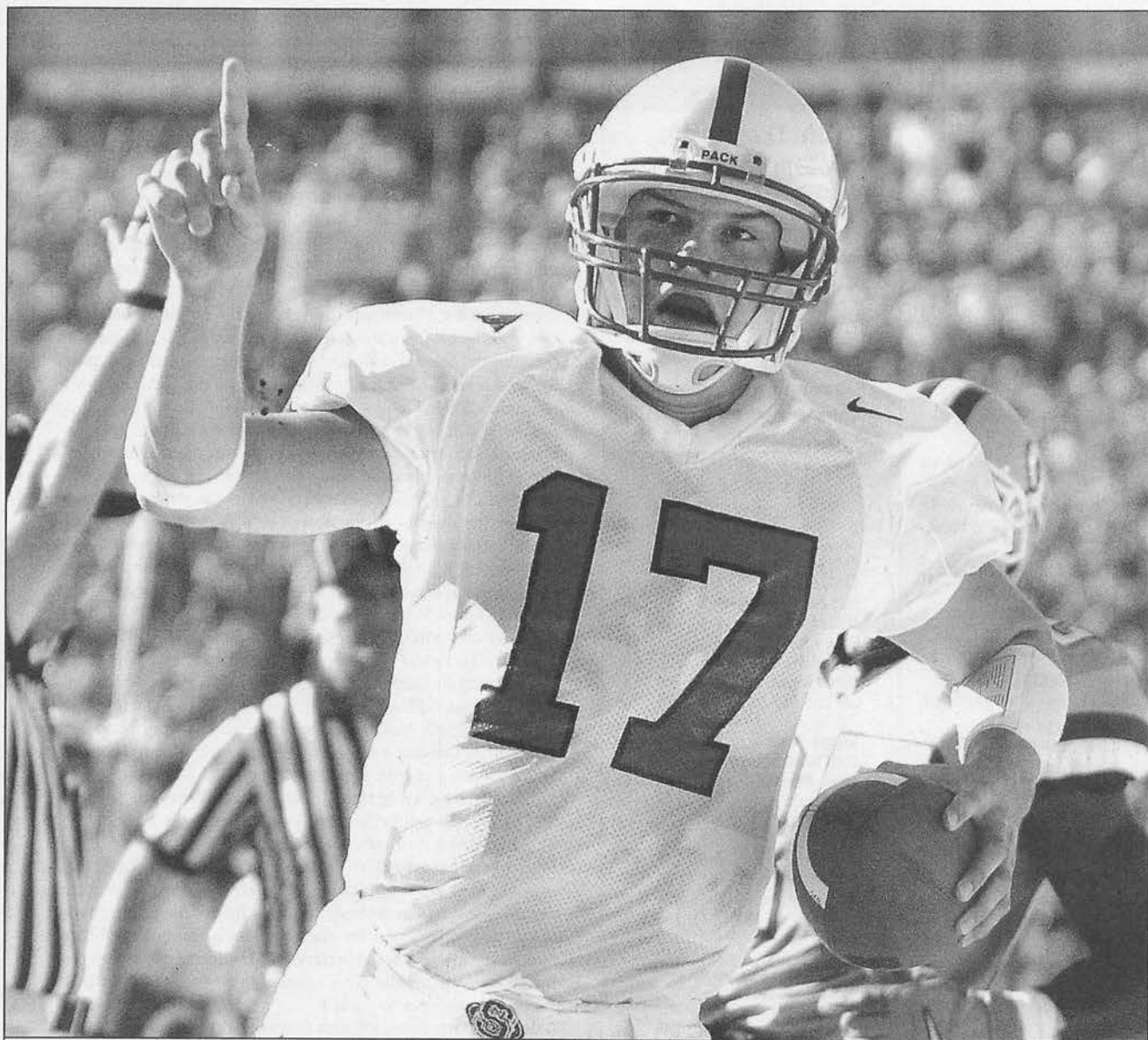
**Defensive philosophy:** The Pack plays a 4-3 that has been big on risk-taking in the secondary but not terribly effective in rushing the passer. While everybody wants to harass the quarterback, State has compensated for the weakness by finding big hitters at linebacker and in the secondary and by daring opponents to throw over the middle. This appears to be the way the 2001 Wolfpack will have to go at it.

**Defensive stars:** From his first freshman practice in 1998, LB Levar Fisher impressed the staff with his fearless approach and willingness to dispense punishment. Some expected him to go pro after last year, but he decided to stick around. The 2000 ACC Defensive Player of the Year, he will be a serious candidate for the Butkus Award this season. One of Fisher's mates is 5-10 LB Dantonio Burnette, supposedly undersized but undeniably effective. In the secondary, Terrence Holt, brother of Torry, spent his true freshman year as a walk-on but is now an All-ACC free safety who broke up six passes and made 89 tackles a year ago. Senior Brian Williams has developed into an honors candidate at cornerback.

**Defensive concerns:** The lack of a pass rush is a big concern. NC State finished fifth in the ACC in sacks last year and needs an upgrade to keep the pressure off an outstanding but overworked secondary. State anticipated having SS Adrian Wilson back for another year, but the junior surprised the staff by declaring for the NFL draft. Regardless of whether the coaches decide to go with youth or to move somebody over, that spot is vulnerable until proved otherwise. State was third in the ACC in pass defense last year, so things aren't really that bad. But why tempt fate?

**Special teams:** In the past couple of years, State has had a penchant for excellence in kick-blocking but struggles elsewhere.





GRANT HALVORSON / AP

**NOT PRETTY, BUT EFFECTIVE:** *Rivers, the ACC Rookie of the Year last season, doesn't have the best mechanics, but he gets the job done for the Wolfpack.*

Holt, who swatted three kicks last year, is back to frighten opponents. K Kent Passingham, who struggled through a checkered career, is gone. In his place will be sophomore Austin Herbert, who couldn't beat out Passingham last year but who holds the North Carolina high school record for career field goals (37). The other concern is on kick returns, another area that made Koren Robinson one of the ACC's most feared players. This, too, has been a tradition of excellence in the program.

**Coaching staff:** This group got a lot of ink for becoming the highest-paid in history when it came aboard in early 2000. When it was revealed that NC State had become the first school in history to pay its assistant football coaches more than \$1 million collectively, other schools reacted and a national trend started. The group earned its keep in 2000, though, helping State go 8-4. Now the key question is how things will work without Chow, who received much of the credit for BYU's run of excellence while he was there

and who tutored Rivers so well last season. Galbraith's background is in the offensive line, but his work at Marshall has been copied at a lot of places—even occasionally down the road at North Carolina. The perfect balance to all the offensive hype is that coach Chuck Amato is a defensive guy and proud of it.

**Bottom line:** Even with all its success, the Wolfpack was very close to being a sub-.500 team last year. It needed overtime to beat Arkansas State, a team that finished 1-10, and it struggled against Indiana, Wake Forest and others before winning. State will have to play better in 2001 than it did in 2000 to duplicate the 8-4 record, and that won't be easy without Koren Robinson. But with another year under his belt, Rivers just might find a way to get it done. Ray Robinson will also be critical. Helping out will be another weak non-conference schedule and the fact that four of five "swing games"—those that could go either way—will be at home (UNC, Clemson, Virginia and Maryland). —D.D.

## TSNumber

# 0.9

The difference between opponents' rushing yards per play and the Wolfpack's (4.1 to 3.2). When you're dealing with small numbers such as rushing yards per carry, a difference of nearly a yard an attempt is huge. NC State probably will have to close that gap now that WR Koren Robinson is gone as the chief big-play threat. He left for the NFL with two seasons of eligibility remaining.



# 5 Virginia

**Offensive philosophy:** New coach Al Groh comes to Virginia from the New York Jets, who attempted 69 passes in their last game but also had a running back (Curtis Martin) who had 316 carries for the season. So Groh has first-hand knowledge of how a balanced offense works. His offensive coordinator, Bill Musgrave, most recently was the offensive coordinator of the Carolina Panthers after an NFL career spent backing up the likes of John Elway and Steve Young. Musgrave has a background with the West Coast offense, a style that should suit a cast of performers who lack blinding speed.

**Offensive stars:** Antoine Womack, thrust into the starting lineup after an early-season injury to Arlen Harris, provided Virginia with its third ACC rushing champion in as many seasons. He also was the lone Virginia player to be named first-team All-ACC. Womack could thrive in Groh's system. Tyree Foreman is a cousin of Jets FB Richie Anderson, and Groh sees many similarities, one reason he has installed Foreman as the team's full-time fullback.

**Offensive concerns:** Groh will wait as long as possible before picking either Bryson Spinner or Matt Schaub as his starting quarterback. Spinner started three games last year and received extensive playing time in two others due to injuries to starter Dan Ellis, but Spinner completed only 41 percent of his attempts. Billy McMullen, plagued by dropped passes in 2000, heads a receiving corps that must find replacements for its Nos. 2, 3 and 4 pass catchers (Demetrius Dotson, Kevin Coffey and Billy Baber) from last year.

**Defensive philosophy:** Almost all of Groh's background is on the defensive side of the ball. Before his one-year stint as the Jets' head coach, he was defensive coordinator for the NFL's Giants, Browns and Patriots. His experience was one reason Groh felt he could hire 31-year-old Penn State linebackers coach Al Golden as his coordinator. Golden, a Virginia graduate assistant in the mid-1990s, is helping Groh install a 3-4 defense that represents a significant departure from the 4-3 scheme favored by ex-coach George Welsh and his defensive coordinator, Rick Lantz.

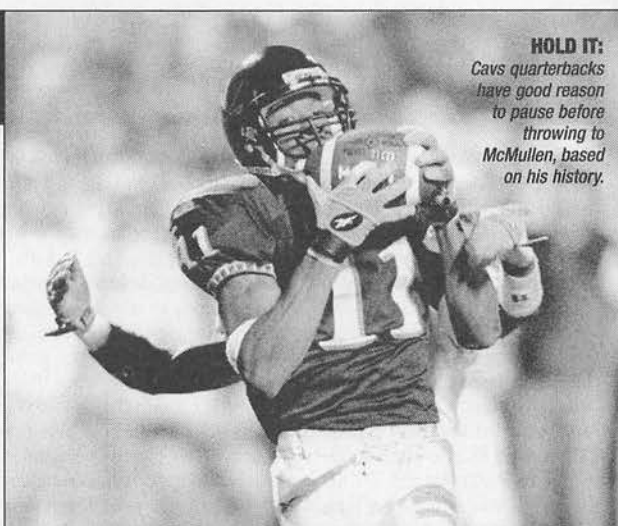
**Defensive stars:** The Cavaliers' top three tacklers in 2000 were senior LBs Yubrenal Isabelle, Byron Thweatt and Donny Green. Nevertheless, Virginia has a core of good, young replacements, headed by Angelo Crowell, younger brother of Detroit Lions WR Germaine Crowell. After sitting out the 2000 season while on academic probation, S Chris Williams is back and hoping to rediscover his form of 1999, when he was a freshman All-American.

**Defensive concerns:** Virginia has lost both of its starting cornerbacks for the second year in a row, but the Cavaliers didn't exactly distinguish themselves on pass defense in either 1999 or 2000 anyway. Some of that can be traced to the lack of a pass rush, which generated only 15 sacks last season. No Virginia player had more than four sacks, and no returning player had more than one interception.

**Special teams:** Welsh used co-special teams coordinators last season, but both were position coaches for whom special teams were sidelights. That has changed. One of Groh's first moves was to hire Corwin Brown, 30, a recently retired Detroit Lions cornerback, as a full-time special teams coordinator. On the plus side, the Cavaliers have one of the ACC's best tandems in K David Greene and P Mike Abrams.

**Coaching staff:** Groh, 57, hired one of the youngest staffs in Division I-A. Both coordinators are under 35, and only one assistant was over 40 when hired. Many of the new coaches have NFL ties. Groh's son, Mike, an ex-Virginia quarterback, will coach the wide receivers.

**Bottom line:** Although Virginia's streak of consecutive seasons with seven or more victories ended at 13 last season, Welsh had told associates that he thought the Cavaliers would be good in 2001. But how good? With the season opener at Wisconsin and other non-conference games against Penn State and Virginia Tech, Groh's honeymoon does not figure to be a long one. —D.D.



**HOLD IT:**  
Cavs quarterbacks  
have good reason  
to pause before  
throwing to  
McMullen, based  
on his history.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

## National Rank 43

**Coach:** Al Groh (1st year; 26-40 overall, 6 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Bill Musgrave (1st season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Al Golden (1st season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple pro style  
**Defensive scheme:** 3-4  
**Starters lost:** 11  
**Lettermen lost:** 16  
**Lettermen returning:** 40  
**Site:** Charlottesville, Va.  
**Stadium:** Scott (artificial turf, 61,500).  
**Last league title won:** 1995 (tie)  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** '97  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 41  
**2000 record:** 6-6 (lost to Georgia in Oahu Bowl); ACC: 5-3/4th  
**Website:** www.virginiaspports.com

### 2000 Results

Brigham Young, L, 38-35 (OT)  
Richmond, W, 34-6  
at Duke, W, 26-10  
Clemson, L, 31-10  
at Wake Forest, W, 27-10  
Maryland, W, 31-23  
at Florida State, L, 37-3  
North Carolina, W, 17-6  
at Georgia Tech, L, 35-0  
NC State, W, 24-17  
at Virginia Tech, L, 42-21  
Georgia, L, 37-14

### Schedule

A25—at Wisconsin  
S1—Richmond  
S13—Penn State  
S22—at Clemson  
S29—Duke  
O6—at Maryland  
O13—at North Carolina  
O20—Florida State  
O27—at NC State  
N3—Wake Forest  
N10—Georgia Tech  
N17—Virginia Tech

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Tavon Mason	5-11	181	Jr.
	James Johnson	6-1	189	Jr.
T	<b>Jermese Jones</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Kevin Bailey	6-6	295	So.
G	<b>Josh Lawson</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Ben Carber	6-1	305	So.
C	Jared Woodson	6-6	285	Sr.
	Jay Green	6-2	280	So.
G	<b>Evan Routzahn</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Micah Kimball	6-4	284	So.
T	Kevin Bailey	6-6	295	So.
	Mike Mullins	6-8	297	Jr.
TE	Chris Luzar	6-7	250	Sr.
	Rick Ramsey	6-5	245	Sr.
WR	<b>Billy McMullen</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Michael McGrew	6-2	184	So.
QB	Bryson Spinner	6-2	225	So.
	Matt Schaub	6-5	222	So.
RB	<b>Antwoine Womack</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Tyree Foreman	5-11	224	Sr.
FB	Tyree Foreman	5-11	224	Sr.
	John Duckett	6-1	226	Sr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Darryl Sanders</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Merrill Robertson	6-1	250	Jr.
T	<b>George Stanley</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Colin McWeeny	6-4	275	Jr.
T	<b>Monsanto Pope</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Larry Simmons	6-3	275	So.
E	<b>Ljubomir Stamenich</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
	Boo Battle	6-4	253	Jr.
OLB	William Clark	6-1	220	Sr.
	Raymond Mann	6-1	220	So.
MLB	Rich Bedesem	6-1	236	So.
	William Clark	6-1	220	Sr.
OLB	Angelo Crowell	6-1	224	Jr.
	Dennis Haley	6-1	219	Fr.
CB	Rashad Robertson	5-11	186	Jr.
	Almondo Curry	5-8	168	So.
SS	<b>Shernard Newby</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Jamaine Winborne	5-10	199	So.
FS	<b>Jerton Evans</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
	Devon Simmons	5-11	200	Sr.
CB	Art Thomas	6-3	203	So.
	Jermaine Winborne	5-10	199	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>David Greene</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
P	<b>Mike Abrams</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>Sr.</b>

Returning starters in bold



# 6 North Carolina

**Offensive philosophy:** New coordinator Gary Tranquill, who has nearly four decades of coaching experience, promises to bring a balanced attack to Chapel Hill. While he doesn't mind experimenting with new-millennium fads like four-receiver sets, he insists the funky stuff will not form the basis of his philosophy. Using that heavily, new coach John Bunting maintains, softens your defense because of the lack of contact in practice. Bunting intends to use the running game as his base offense, and he's willing to use QB Ronald Curry in any way. Curry, when healthy, is a coveted weapon even though he hasn't been the superstar everybody envisioned he would be.

**Offensive stars:** Curry set a school record for total offense last year and returned the deep ball to the attack with the help of WR Bosley Allen, who finished fifth in the ACC in receiving yards per game. C Adam Metts entered 2000 with a reputation for underachievement but was named the league's lineman of the week three times. He is a candidate for first-team All-ACC honors.

**Offensive concerns:** When looking at 2000 game tape, Bunting says he was appalled at the number of times Curry got hit. Line coach Robbie Caldwell is universally considered one of the five best in the country, but years of recruiting neglect at the position have hurt. Another issue is speed at tailback, something the Heels haven't had in years. Neither Brandon Russell nor Willie Parker is going to run by anyone. UNC also has no tight ends with any significant game experience and may end up giving the job to a true freshman.

**Defensive philosophy:** Bunting and new coordinator Jon Tenuta want to attack. Doesn't everybody? But they get specific on how that is achieved, saying it stems from the outside through solid cornerbacks who can cover and intimidate people. They also preach multiple concepts and trickery that makes the opposing quarterback think pressure is coming when the coverage is, in fact, soft.

**Defensive stars:** There may not be a better pass rusher in America than E Julius Peppers, a 6-7 menace who led the country in sacks with 15. A junior, Peppers has said he'll play in college for "one more year," meaning he anticipates a big season and early entry in the NFL draft. Nobody doubts him. Carolina also has a couple of solid tackles in Ryan Sims and Will Chapman who can stuff the middle. CB Errol Hood broke up 12 passes last year, good for third in the ACC.

**Defensive concerns:** The strange thing about this team is that even with an excellent line, it couldn't create or recover fumbles. The defense needs to become more opportunistic. The secondary, which intercepted only six passes last year, must get more picks. If that means taking chances, so be it. New linebackers must be found after the departures of Brandon Spoon and Sedrick Hodge to the NFL.

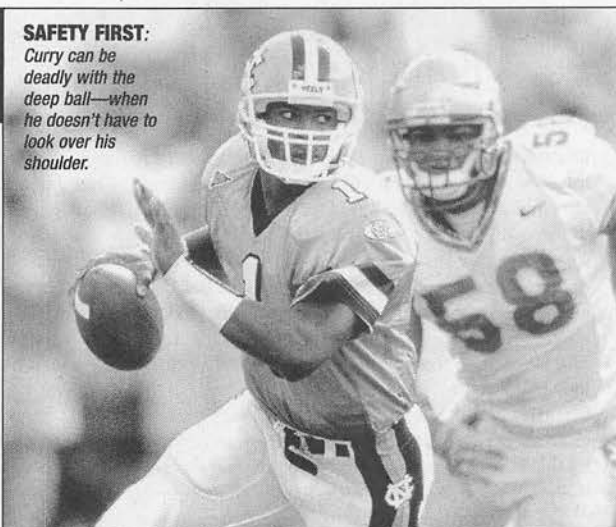
**Special teams:** As long as Allen is returning kicks, Carolina has a chance to turn a game around quickly. Allen can fly. A year ago, Jeff Reed emerged to steal the kicking job and held onto it firmly, leading the league in field goals (16) and percentage (.800). Reed doesn't have a particularly strong leg, but he's reliable from 42 yards and in. P Blake Ferguson struggled as a true freshman and needs to improve.

**Coaching staff:** It is widely agreed that Bunting hit a few home runs in his staff, prying Tranquill, 60, out of probable retirement and catching a break when Tenuta and the Ohio State staff were suddenly fired on January 2. Assistant head coach Jim Webster is a highly respected leader who played with Bunting at UNC in the early 1970s. Webster and strength coach Jeff Connors, who worked the Heels ragged over the winter, came from East Carolina. Bunting retained Caldwell, Gunter Brewer (wide receivers) and Ken Browning (tight ends), all of whom would have been snapped up by other schools had they been let go.

**Bottom line:** Bunting has a bit of a honeymoon period, and he will need it. In an impressive display of guts, he elected to play at Oklahoma in an extra game on August 25. The Heels' schedule therefore begins this way: at the defending national champions; at Maryland; and at Texas. Then, two weeks later, Florida State comes to town. Realistically a break-even, 6-6 season would be a huge accomplishment. —R.D.

## SAFETY FIRST:

Curry can be deadly with the deep ball—when he doesn't have to look over his shoulder.



## National Rank 50

**Coach:** John Bunting (1st year)

**Offensive coordinator:** Gary Tranquill (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Jon Tenuta (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple I

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 10

**Lettermen lost:** 19

**Lettermen returning:** 60

**Site:** Chapel Hill, N.C.

**Stadium:** Kenan (grass, 60,000)

**Last league title won:** 1980

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1998

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 34

**2000 record:** 6-5; ACC: 3-5/6th

**Website:** www.tarheelblue.com

## 2000 Results

Tulsa, W, 30-9  
at Wake Forest, W, 35-14  
at Florida State, L, 63-14  
Marshall, W, 20-15  
Georgia Tech, L, 42-28  
NC State, L, 38-20  
Clemson, L, 38-24  
at Virginia, L, 17-6  
at Pittsburgh, W, 20-17  
Maryland, W, 13-10  
at Duke, W, 59-21

## Schedule

A25—at Oklahoma  
S1—at Maryland  
S8—at Texas  
S15—Southern Methodist  
S22—Florida State  
S29—at NC State  
O6—East Carolina  
O13—Virginia  
O20—at Clemson  
N1—at Georgia Tech  
N10—Wake Forest  
N17—Duke

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Bosley Allen</b>	6-1	190	Jr.
	Sam Aiken	6-2	190	Jr.
T	Greg Woolfer	6-5	265	So.
	Willie McNeil	6-4	292	Fr.*
G	Jupiter Wilson	6-2	300	So.
	Riko Feemster	6-4	299	So.
C	<b>Adam Metts</b>	6-1	270	Sr.
	<b>Isaac Morford</b>	6-3	289	Jr.
G	David Stevenson	6-4	328	So.
	Marcus Wilson	6-3	256	So.
T	Jeb Terry	6-6	295	So.
	Skip Seagraves	6-5	275	Fr.*
TE	Doug Brown	6-4	245	Sr.
	Zach Hilton	6-6	255	Jr.
WR	<b>Kory Bailey</b>	6-1	190	Sr.
	Jamal Jones	5-11	200	So.
QB	<b>Ronald Curry</b>	6-2	200	Sr.
	Luke Huard	6-4	220	Jr.
TB	<b>Willie Parker</b>	5-10	200	So.
	Brandon Russell	5-11	185	So.
FB	James Faison	6-0	220	So.
	Madison Hedgecock	6-2	244	Fr.*

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Julius Peppers</b>	6-6	270	Jr.
	Isaac Mooring	6-3	257	So.
T	<b>Ryan Sims</b>	6-4	285	Sr.
	Jonas Seawright	6-6	305	Fr.*
T	Will Chapman	6-4	255	Jr.
	Eric Davis	6-3	260	Jr.
E	Joey Evans	6-4	256	Sr.
	Jermicus Banks	6-3	247	Fr.*
OLB	David Thornton	6-2	222	Sr.
	<b>Merceda Perry</b>	6-4	245	Sr.
MLB	Robert Harris	6-1	230	Jr.
	Sean Williams	6-1	218	Sr.
OLB	Quincy Monk	6-4	240	Sr.
	Clarence Gaddy	6-4	210	Fr.*
CB	<b>Michael Waddell</b>	5-11	170	Jr.
	Kevin Knight	5-8	175	Jr.
SS	<b>Billy-Dee Greenwood</b>	6-2	185	Sr.
	JoVon Lewis	6-1	181	Fr.*
FS	Dexter Reid	5-11	186	So.
	DeFonter Coleman	6-1	215	Jr.
CB	<b>Errol Hood</b>	5-11	195	Sr.
	Derrick Johnson	5-8	165	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Jeff Reed</b>	6-0	200	Sr.
P	<b>Blake Ferguson</b>	6-0	170	So.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



# 7 Maryland

**Offensive philosophy:** Alumnus and first-year head coach Ralph Friedgen was one of the nation's most respected offensive coordinators when he was at Georgia Tech, where it took him three years to install his whole offense. Friedgen's philosophy is to have enough variations to exploit any defense and move the ball in a style that best suits the talents of his players. Don't expect him to try to force a position on a player, or a certain style of play on a certain player. Friedgen was as successful with drop-back passer George Godsey running his Georgia Tech offense as he was with Heisman Trophy runner-up Joe Hamilton, an all-purpose threat.

**Offensive stars:** Junior college transfer Shaun Hill came out of nowhere last year to challenge holdover Calvin McCall for the starting quarterback job, then performed so capably while McCall was injured that he kept the job. Hill's position was cemented during the winter, when McCall spent time with the Maryland men's basketball team and ultimately quit football. Hill will be looking for WR Guilian Gary, who enjoyed a breakout season last year with 40 catches, and TE Jeff Dugan, a favorite of ex-coach Ron Vanderlinden's. C Melvin Fowler, with 33 career starts, may be the ACC's most underrated lineman.

**Offensive concerns:** The leading candidate to start at tailback, sophomore Bruce Perry, has 30 career carries, and that came two years ago. Perry, used sparingly as a true freshman in 1999, was held out of action as All-ACC RB LaMont Jordan returned for his senior year. The departure of 3½-year starter Matt Kalapinski at fullback won't ease the transition.

**Defensive philosophy:** Friedgen was half-serious in the spring when he said that Maryland was so shy of defensive linemen that it might have to play a 2-5 scheme. Look for Friedgen to give great autonomy to fellow New Yorker and coordinator Gary Blackney, most recently the head coach at Bowling Green. Blackney will personally coach the Maryland secondary, perennially a trouble spot during the Vanderlinden years.

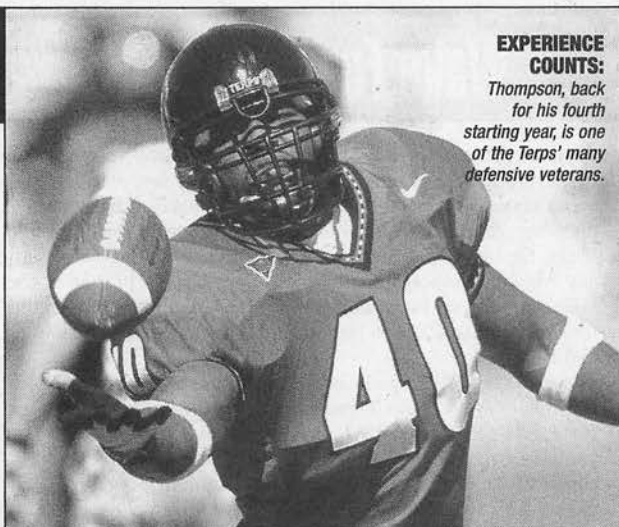
**Defensive stars:** The heart of the defense is a veteran linebacker corps headed by junior E.J. Henderson, who finished with a team-high 109 tackles, including 70 solo stops (13 for loss). He will be joined by three-year starter Aaron Thompson. Sophomore DE Mike Whaley is a potential star, and SS Tony Jackson is one of the best defensive backs in the ACC.

**Defensive concerns:** An off-field problem clouded the status of LB Marlon Moye-Moore, who had a combined 238 tackles as a sophomore and junior. The Terps will miss Moye-Moore if he can't return, but where they're really hurting is up front, where Kris Jenkins contributed 17 tackles for loss in his senior season. Blackney takes over a unit that was eighth in the ACC in total defense last year, with a yield of 440 yards per game.

**Special teams:** Brooks Barnard never played at Oklahoma before transferring to Maryland, where he averaged 44.7 yards a kick in his first full season as the Terps' punter. Barnard has two years of eligibility remaining. Maryland is in the market for a kicker with the departure of dependable Brian Kopka, who finished his career fifth on the Terps' all-time scoring list.

**Coaching staff:** In addition to Blackney, who was 60-50-2 in 10 years at Bowling Green, Friedgen was able to land Charlie Taaffe as his offensive coordinator. Taaffe, who did a commendable job in 10 years at The Citadel, already had begun work at Maryland when he learned he had been named Canadian Football League coach of the year for his work with the Montreal Alouettes.

**Bottom line:** Friedgen is no stranger in College Park, to which he returned after his college days and served as offensive coordinator when the Terrapins won three consecutive ACC championships in the mid-1980s. No one questions that Friedgen will breathe new life into the Maryland offense, but talent is lacking on the other side of the ball. The schedule will give the Terps a chance to build some momentum. They open with North Carolina, Eastern Michigan and West Virginia at home; visit Wake Forest, then return home to entertain Virginia. —D.D.



**EXPERIENCE COUNTS:**  
Thompson, back for his fourth starting year, is one of the Terps' many defensive veterans.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

## National Rank 67

**Coach:** Ralph Friedgen  
(1st year)

**Offensive coordinator:** Charlie Taaffe (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Gary Blackney (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** Multiple

**Starters lost:** 7

**Lettermen lost:** 18

**Lettermen returning:** 48

**Site:** College Park, Md.

**Stadium:** Byrd (grass, 48,055).

**Last league title won:** 1985

**Last bowl appearance:** 1990

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 44

**2000 record:** 5-6; ACC:

3-5/T6th

**Website:** www.umterps.com

## 2000 Results

Temple, W, 17-10  
at West Virginia, L, 30-17  
Middle Tennessee, W, 45-27  
Florida State, L, 59-7  
at Virginia, L, 31-23  
at Clemson, L, 35-14  
Wake Forest, W, 37-7  
at Duke, W, 20-9  
NC State, W, 35-28 (20T)  
at North Carolina, L, 13-10  
Georgia Tech, L, 35-22

## Schedule

S1—North Carolina  
S8—Eastern Michigan  
S15—West Virginia  
S22—at Wake Forest  
O6—Virginia  
O13—at Georgia Tech  
O20—Duke  
O27—at Florida State  
N3—Troy State  
N10—Clemson  
N17—at North Carolina State

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Guilian Gary</b>	6-0	187	Sr.
	Maurice Shanks	6-4	184	Fr.*
T	<b>Matt Crawford</b>	6-6	311	Jr.
	Eric Dumas	6-6	300	So.
G	<b>Todd Wike</b>	6-3	295	Jr.
	Ed Tyler	6-3	300	So.
C	<b>Melvin Fowler</b>	6-3	292	Sr.
	Brandon Miller	6-2	296	So.
G	<b>Lamar Bryant</b>	6-3	307	So.
	Reggie Kemp	6-4	332	Fr.*
T	Chris Snader	6-5	293	Sr.
	C.J. Brooks	6-5	304	Fr.*
TE	<b>Jeff Dugan</b>	6-4	263	So.
	Matt Murphy	6-5	261	Sr.
WR	Jafar Williams	6-2	193	So.
	<b>Scooter Monroe</b>	6-1	185	Jr.
QB	<b>Shaun Hill</b>	6-3	225	Sr.
	Latrez Harrison	6-3	223	Jr.
RB	Bruce Perry	5-9	190	So.
	Marc Riley	6-3	225	Sr.
FB	James Lynch	5-11	261	So.
	Chad Killian	6-2	256	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Scott Smith	6-4	260	So.
	Durrand Roundtree	6-3	250	Jr.
T	<b>Charles Hill</b>	6-2	292	Sr.
	James Evans	6-4	320	Sr.
T	C.J. Feldheim	6-3	263	So.
	William Shime	6-4	265	Jr.
E	<b>Mike Whaley</b>	6-1	233	So.
	Ryan Swift	6-1	238	Sr.
OLB	<b>Aaron Thompson</b>	6-1	234	Sr.
	Leroy Ambush	6-1	220	So.
MLB	<b>E.J. Henderson</b>	6-2	238	Jr.
	Kevin Bishop	6-2	223	Sr.
OLB	<b>Marlon Moye-Moore</b>	6-1	230	Sr.
	Reggie Lewis	6-0	233	Sr.
CB	<b>Curome Cox</b>	6-1	185	So.
	Dennard Wilson	5-11	183	So.
SS	<b>Tony Jackson</b>	6-1	209	Sr.
	Rod Littles	5-11	204	Sr.
FS	Randall Jones	6-2	223	Sr.
	Tyrone Stewart	6-0	199	Jr.
CB	<b>Tony Okanlawon</b>	5-11	186	Sr.
	Andrew Smith	6-0	193	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Vedad Sijjkovic	6-2	218	Sr.
P	<b>Brooks Barnard</b>	6-2	182	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 8 Wake Forest

**Offensive philosophy:** New Deacons coach Jim Grobe ran an option-based, ground-heavy attack at Ohio University last year, but that was a matter of adaptation to the talent on hand rather than a philosophical bent. While he'll use some option and will run a lot at Wake, Grobe vows this will be a multiple offense that will occasionally employ the shotgun and three wide receivers. In spite of the team's 2-9 record last year, there is a decent amount of talent at the skill positions, and to neglect any of them would probably be a bad idea.

**Offensive stars:** Wake and Clemson were the only teams in the ACC with two players in the league's final top 10 in rushing. The Deacs got a solid year out of RB Tarence Williams, who rushed for 5.1 yards a carry and placed eighth in the conference in yards per game (60.1). Right behind him was QB Anthony Young, who gained 455 yards himself. An injury that ultimately ended QB C.J. Leak's Wake career—he has since transferred—created an opportunity for Young, now a sophomore, and junior James MacPherson, neither of whom had any real expectation of serious playing time this soon. Young is more of a runner; MacPherson completed 54 percent of his passes with six touchdowns and three interceptions a year ago. When Wake does want to throw, it can go to Fabian Davis, whose average of 18.1 yards a catch was fourth in the ACC among qualifiers. C Vince Azzolina and G Michael Collins are solid linemen.

**Offensive concerns:** Can the team operate with a rotating quarterback system again, or must it find one guy and stick with him? If the latter is true, who's the man? Young and MacPherson are still green. Even with a couple of nice receivers, Wake finished last in the league in pass offense and next-to-last in total offense. The line will have to protect whoever's back there if Grobe's dream of a broad-based philosophy is to be realized.

**Defensive philosophy:** Grobe, who played at Virginia in the early 1970s when the Cavaliers were a joke, inherited a struggling Ohio program in 1995 and turned it around. He knows that some schools just can't load up on linemen, so he will institute a 3-4 set, having decided that the hardest things to find in quantity are defensive linemen and cornerbacks.

**Defensive stars:** At least the Deacons have Calvin Pace, a 6-6 junior who made great strides last year from the end position. Pace's 8½ sacks were good for sixth in the ACC. Wake has two emerging players in leading tackler Marquis Hopkins, a linebacker, and DE Nathan Bolling. CB Adrian Duncan, who finished sixth in the league in passes defended, led a group that helped the Deacons finish a respectable fourth against the pass.

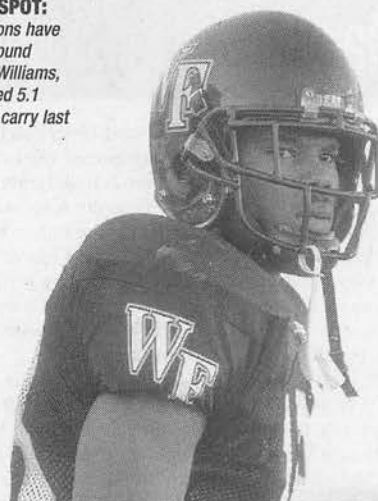
**Defensive concerns:** The Deacons allowed 205 yards a game on the ground last year, so it's imperative additional linemen emerge in pre-season camp. That rushing yards allowed total was last in the ACC by a decent margin, and it will be the chief area of concentration in August. The hardest player to replace will be DE Bryan Ray, an All-ACC candidate a year ago. Depth at all spots is also an issue.

**Special teams:** Wake has a great kick returner in John Stone, a former ACC 100-meter champion who has taken three kicks back for scores in his career. The Deacons need more consistency in the kicking game, having made only five of 10 field-goal tries a year ago. Their coverage has been solid but not outstanding.

**Coaching staff:** Grobe brought almost his entire crew, including the strength coach, from Ohio University to Winston-Salem. The group is low on marquee value but apparently quick on its feet, as it took over recruiting on the fly from Jim Caldwell's staff and retained every major commitment the program had in place. It also added a couple of players toward the end in a 17-man class.

**Bottom line:** Football is seldom easy at Wake Forest, but Caldwell left believing the foundation for eventual success had been established. Most of the starters are back, and if the new staff can develop depth, Wake should improve on its 2-9 record. Don't expect any postseason speculation, but things should get better. —R.D.

**BRIGHT SPOT:**  
The Deacons have a solid ground option in Williams, who gained 5.1 yards per carry last season.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

## National Rank 100

**Coach:** Jim Grobe (1st year; 33-33-1 overall, 6 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Troy Calhoun (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Dean Hood (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** I-Pro

**Defensive scheme:** 3-4

**Starters lost:** 6

**Lettermen lost:** 13

**Lettermen returning:** 47

**Site:** Winston-Salem, N.C.

**Stadium:** Groves (grass, 33,941)

**Last league title won:** 1970

**Last bowl appearance:** 1999

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 74

**2000 record:** 2-9; ACC:

1-8/8th

**Website:**

www.wakeforestsports.com

## 2000 Results

Appalachian State, L, 20-16

North Carolina, L, 35-14

at Clemson, L, 55-7

Virginia, L, 27-10

Vanderbilt, L, 17-10

at Georgia Tech, L, 52-20

at Maryland, L, 37-7

Duke, W, 28-26

Florida State, L, 35-6

at Navy, W, 49-26

at NC State, L, 32-14

## Schedule

S1—at East Carolina

S8—Appalachian State

S15—Northern Illinois

S22—Maryland

S29—at Florida State

O6—North Carolina State

O13—at Duke

O27—Clemson

N3—at Virginia

N10—at North Carolina

N17—Georgia Tech

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Ira Williams	6-2	206	Sr.
	Jax Landfried	5-9	172	Sr.
T	Tyson Clabo	6-6	295	So.
	Jonathan Helms	6-3	272	Jr.
G	Michael Collins	6-6	318	Sr.
	Seth Houk	6-3	306	Sr.
C	Vince Azzolina	6-4	301	So.
	Blake Lingruen	6-4	265	Fr.*
G	M. Moosbrugger	6-7	296	Sr.
	Brian Woychik	6-6	290	Fr.*
T	Tim Bennett	6-4	289	Jr.
	Mark Moroz	6-4	261	So.
TE	Ray Thomas	6-4	246	Jr.
	Josh Warren	6-4	252	So.
WR	John Stone	5-11	180	Sr.
	Fabian Davis	5-11	173	Jr.
QB	James MacPherson	6-2	197	Jr.
	Anthony Young	6-3	190	So.
RB	Tarence Williams	5-10	178	Jr.
	Jamie Scott	6-0	211	Jr.
FB	Ovie Mughelli	6-2	248	Jr.
	Trevor Harris	6-2	210	Fr.*

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Calvin Pace	6-6	256	Jr.
	Joe Salsich	6-4	245	Fr.*
T	Chad Rebar	6-3	295	So.
	Masanori Toguchi	6-3	290	Jr.
E	Roderick Stephen	6-4	242	Jr.
	Nathan Bolling	6-4	272	Sr.
OLB	Ed Kargbokorogie	6-3	219	Sr.
	Jack Yates	6-0	213	So.
ILB	R.D. Montgomery	6-6	235	Fr.*
	Jarrett Heard	6-2	216	Fr.*
ILB	Dion Williams	6-1	235	So.
	Kellen Brantley	6-3	238	So.
OLB	Marquis Hopkins	6-2	236	Sr.
	Brad White	6-1	210	Fr.*
CB	Quintin Williams	6-2	185	So.
	Eric King	5-9	180	Fr.*
SS	Warren Braxton	6-0	195	Fr.*
	Walter Simmons	6-0	196	Jr.
FS	Michael Clinkscale	6-1	194	Sr.
	Obi Chukwumah	6-2	196	So.
CB	Adrian Duncan	6-1	192	Sr.
	Marcus McGruder	5-9	180	Fr.*

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Tyler Ashe	5-11	177	Sr.
P	Matt Brennie	6-2	188	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 9 Duke

**Offensive philosophy:** Coach Carl Franks returned to his alma mater two years ago promising an exciting, pass-happy offense the school dubbed "Airborne." Though that's what the Blue Devils want to run, it hasn't worked out. Last year, they had an almost 50-50 split between passing and running plays. That's the goal for most football teams, but not Duke. Few Blue Devils teams have succeeded with a ground-based game, because the program has never been able to load up on big, bulky linemen.

**Offensive stars:** The Devils began to move the ball better when D. Bryant seized the starting quarterback job. Bryant showed some promise in 2000, but he made too many mistakes. The coaches did sense some improvement this spring, however, as Bryant was named the program's most improved offensive player. TB Chris Douglas wasn't a starter in 2000, but he still finished 11th in the ACC in rushing with 503 total yards and gained an impressive 4.6 yards per carry—an especially solid figure given the team's average. **Offensive concerns:** They begin with rushing. The Blue Devils gained a paltry 2.4 yards per carry and were 106th nationally in yards per game last season. This season, they must replace two starters from the line, which actually might be a good thing. Duke also threw 22 interceptions last year, which, when combined with the team's difficulties taking the ball away, put the team in early and frequent holes. Duke has a solid wide receiver in Ben Erdeljac and a strong tight end in Mike Hart, but it must find some speed and get it on the field. The Blue Devils have had some deep threats in the past, but none currently stick out.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Blue Devils will use a 3-4 setup that maximizes the talents of LB Ryan Fowler, who had a tremendous freshman year. Massive run-stoppers are hard to come by at programs such as Duke and Wake Forest, two of the smaller I-A schools, so mobile and versatile athletes are especially valuable here.

**Defensive stars:** Fowler led Duke in tackles (87), tackles for loss (13) and sacks (6.5) last season and immediately became the most important defender in the program. Up front, the Blue Devils welcome back fifth-year senior DE Nate Krill, a 6-8, 248-pound presence who missed all of 2000 after surgery to both shoulders. DE Charles Porter had three sacks in the 2001 spring game; this fall he must help create pressure on opposing quarterbacks and slow the running game. B.J. Hill, who has alternated between the defensive and offensive backfields in his time at Duke, is back at safety after missing 2000 with injuries. He's a solid athlete, as shown by his 798 rushing yards in 1998. Now the Blue Devils need him to re-adapt to defense.

**Defensive concerns:** When a team goes 0-11, as the Blue Devils did a year ago, there will be a lot of them. Duke allowed 458 yards a game last year—good for 113th out of 114 teams nationally. The Blue Devils permitted 21 passing touchdowns and registered fewer than two quarterback sacks per game. They also recovered just seven fumbles and picked off eight passes, meaning the defense seldom gave the offense a chance.

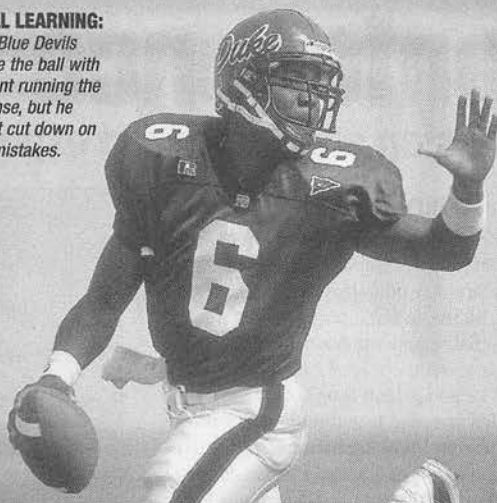
**Special teams:** Kyle Moore, who led the ACC in kickoff returns with a 25.8-yard average, is back for his senior year. But the Blue Devils must find a replacement for P Brian Morton, who got a lot of opportunities and generally made the most of them.

**Coaching staff:** The two biggest names from the staff are gone. Quarterbacks coach Ben Bennett, who in his Duke playing days set the NCAA's career passing record, left for a coaching opportunity in the Arena Football League. Joe DeLamielleure, one of the staff's best recruiters, was fired. Those who remain and the newcomers will have a lot of work to do.

**Bottom line:** After a winless season, there is nowhere to go but up. Duke is likely to get a couple of wins, but do not expect a major breakthrough. Non-conference games against Rice and Vanderbilt should help matters. —R.D.

## STILL LEARNING:

The Blue Devils move the ball with Bryant running the offense, but he must cut down on his mistakes.



BOB LEVERONE/TSN

## National Rank 106

**Coach:** Carl Franks (3-19, 2 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Carl Franks (3rd season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Bob Trott (6th season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** 3-4, multiple

**Starters lost:** 9

**Lettermen lost:** 24

**Lettermen returning:** 34

**Site:** Durham, N.C.

**Stadium:** Wallace Wade (grass, 33,941)

**Last league title won:** 1989 (tie)

**Last bowl appearance:** 1994

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 93

**2000 record:** 0-11; ACC: 0-8/9th

**Website:** www.goduke.com

## 2000 Results

East Carolina, L, 38-0  
at Northwestern, L, 38-5  
Virginia, L, 26-10  
at Vanderbilt, L, 26-7  
Clemson, L, 52-22  
at Florida State, L, 63-14  
at Georgia Tech, L, 45-10  
Maryland, L, 20-9  
at Wake Forest, L, 28-26  
at NC State, L, 35-31  
North Carolina, L, 59-21

## Schedule

S1—Florida State  
S8—at Rice  
S15—at Clemson  
S22—Northwestern  
S29—at Virginia  
O6—Georgia Tech  
O13—Wake Forest  
O20—at Maryland  
O27—Vanderbilt  
N3—NC State  
N17—at North Carolina

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Ben Erdeljac</b>	6-0	198	Sr.
	Jeremy Battier	6-5	187	So.
T	<b>Drew Strojny</b>	6-7	265	So.
	Drew Martin	6-4	297	Jr.
G	<b>Daryl Lewis</b>	6-3	323	So.
	Rusty Wilson	6-3	296	So.
C	Shawn Lynch	6-4	270	Sr.
	Luke Bayer	6-5	278	So.
G	<b>John Miller</b>	6-6	333	Sr.
	Dan Mooney	6-5	266	Fr.*
T	Christian Mitchell	6-6	300	So.
	Patrick Worsham	6-6	287	Fr.*
TE	<b>Mike Hart</b>	6-6	246	Sr.
	Nick Brzezinski	6-4	240	So.
WR	<b>Kyle Moore</b>	5-11	187	Sr.
	Reggie Love	6-4	225	So.
QB	<b>D. Bryant</b>	6-3	211	Jr.
	Chris Wispelway	6-5	200	Fr.*
RB	Chris Douglas	5-10	178	So.
	Brian Clemmons	5-9	197	So.
FB	Alex Wade	6-0	243	So.
	Zach Novak	6-2	235	Fr.*

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Shawn Johnson</b>	6-5	257	So.
	Charles Porter	6-4	249	Sr.
T	<b>Tyran Grissom</b>	6-4	273	Sr.
	Joe Boniewicz	6-4	245	Fr.*
T	Jeff Loneragan	6-2	269	Jr.
	Greg Dufala	6-3	279	Jr.
E	Nate Krill	6-8	248	Sr.
	Drew Ciepielinski	6-5	221	Fr.*
OLB	<b>Ryan Fowler</b>	6-3	223	So.
	Akil Ross	6-1	216	Jr.
MLB	J.T. Cape	6-4	199	So.
	Jason Davis	6-3	220	Jr.
OLB	<b>Jamyon Small</b>	6-1	212	Jr.
	Kurt Miller	6-0	218	So.
CB	<b>Ronnie Hamilton</b>	5-8	178	Sr.
	Terrell Smith	5-11	170	So.
SS	B.J. Hill	5-11	206	Jr.
	D'Juan O'Donald	5-11	192	So.
FS	<b>Josh Kreider</b>	6-1	208	Jr.
	Anthony Roberts	6-3	201	So.
CB	<b>Jeff Phillips</b>	6-3	180	Jr.
	Derrick Lee	5-11	195	Jr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Brent Garber</b>	6-1	185	So.
P	Trey McDonald	6-2	210	Fr.*

Returning starters in bold

\* Redshirt



# Conference USA

## Expansion and increased exposure don't make up for BCS exclusion

By TIM DOHERTY

**Y**ear Six in the annals of Conference USA finds the league in a sort of Division I-A purgatory. C-USA is getting stronger, thanks in large part to cable television's insatiable appetite for college football, which has given the league high-profile exposure and helped it land four bowl tie-ins. The conference also is getting larger, with Texas Christian bumping membership to 10 teams this season and South Florida coming on board in 2003. But C-USA remains a young confederation by any measure, and like any new kid on the block, being ignored—especially in the Bowl Championship Series—still hurts.

**Ascending:** UAB. With nearly the entire starting unit from one of the nation's toughest defenses returning, upgraded recruiting starting to pay dividends and Watson Brown at the helm, the Blazers are a dark-horse candidate for the conference crown.

**Descending:** Southern Mississippi. In C-USA's first four seasons, USM won two titles outright, shared another and finished as a runner-up. Then came 2000—and a fifth-place finish. The Golden Eagles will contend, but, as they replace the entire defensive line and field a shaky offensive line, things could get tougher before they get better.

**Dream schedule:** UAB. Granted, non-conference games at Florida State and Pittsburgh do not exactly fall into the dreamy category, but the Blazers will face neither East Carolina nor Louisville in league play.

**Nightmare schedule:** Welcome, TCU. The Horned Frogs start their season with a visit to Nebraska, then end it against C-USA's version of Murderers' Row: East Carolina, at UAB, Louisville and at Southern Miss.

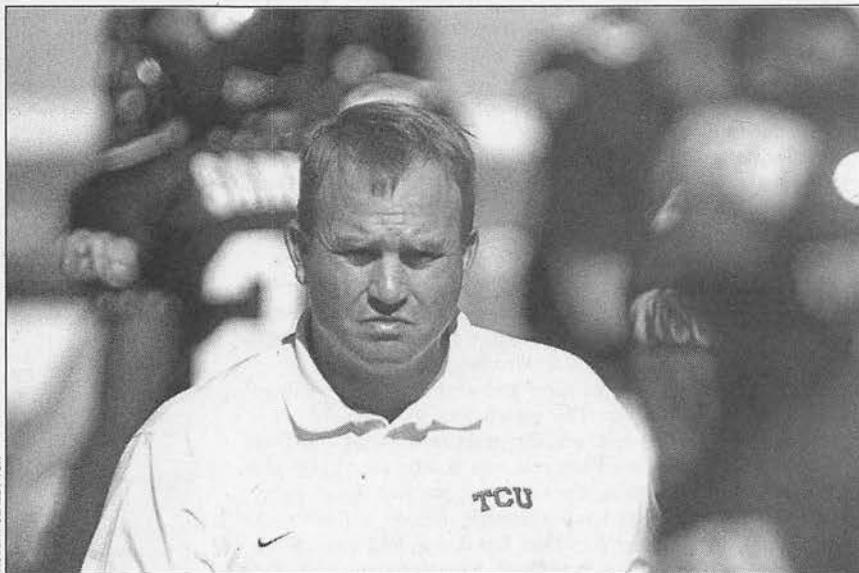
**Best matchup:** Southern Miss at Louisville, October 16. The last time the Golden Eagles visited Louisville, a fake punt set up the game-winning field goal that vaulted USM to the 1999 league title. Louisville gained a measure of revenge in Hattiesburg last fall, drumming the Golden Eagles in a win that spurred the Cards to their first C-USA title.

**Ugliest matchup:** The nonleague slate has its share of stinkers (Northwestern State at TCU and William & Mary at ECU, for example). But the worst will be in Louisville on September 8, when I-AA Western Carolina stops by for a fun afternoon of whoop-up.

**Upset of the year:** Even when Syracuse isn't a power, it doesn't lose much at the Carrier Dome. It will when East Carolina comes to call on September 15.

**Bowl bound:** Louisville, East Carolina, UAB, Southern Miss. TCU could get in if it can run the season-ending gauntlet.

**Biggest shoes to fill:** Cincinnati's Adam Hoover has the tricky task of not only replacing standout QB Deontey Kenner but



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

**AND TCU MAKES TEN:** Patterson's seat is warm this year with the school's move to an increasingly tough conference.

also getting in sync with a new offensive coordinator and scheme.

**Most overrated:** Southern Miss OT Jeremy Bridges. When he arrived in Hattiesburg in 1998, he had NFL prospect written all over him. He hasn't lived up to expectations.

**Most underrated:** UAB QB Jeff Aaron. How much faith do Blazers coaches have in Aaron? They installed a one-back, no-huddle scheme this spring. Enough said.

**Best coaching staff:** ECU coach Steve Logan heads into his 10th season in Greenville, N.C., with two of the best coordinators in the league: Tim Rose, whose defensive schemes are as aggressive as they are sound, and Doug Martin, who has been in lock step with Logan's penchant for wide-open offensive attacks for most of the past decade.

**Coach on the hot seat:** Gary Patterson did not endear himself to followers of the Purple Gang with TCU's loss to Southern Miss in the Mobile Alabama Bowl. Add the fact TCU has jumped from the depleted ranks of the Western Athletic Conference to an improving C-USA, and Patterson will hear howls if the Frogs start getting giggled on a regular basis.

**Best bets:** Cincinnati's Jonathan Ruffin, 2000's Lou Groza Award winner, will kick a game-winning field goal. ... UAB's Jegil Dugger, ECU's Leonard Henry and Tulane's Mewelde Moore each will rush for 1,000 yards. Cincinnati, Louisville and Southern Miss will get more than 1,000 yards using a committee approach. ... At least two quarterbacks will start for Houston. ... Memphis QB Travis Anglin will not stay healthy the entire season. ... TCU's Casey Printers will throw for more than 2,000 yards.

## ALL-LEAGUE

### Offense

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Deion Branch, Louisville	5-10	195	Sr.
WR	Orlando Iglesias, Houston	6-3	220	Sr.
TE	B.J. Roberts, TCU	6-3	237	Sr.
T	Artis Hicks, Memphis	6-5	315	Sr.
T	Josh Gardner, Cincinnati	6-4	286	Jr.
G	Torrin Tucker, Southern Miss	6-6	315	Jr.
G	Victor Payne, TCU	6-1	305	Sr.
C	Torie Tauli, Tulane	6-0	272	Sr.
QB	Dave Ragone, Louisville	6-4	240	Jr.
RB	Derrick Nix, Southern Miss	6-2	226	Sr.
RB	Jegil Dugger, UAB	5-11	212	Sr.

### Defense

E	Andre Arnold, Memphis	6-4	238	Sr.
T	Kirk Thompson, Cincinnati	6-1	260	Sr.
E	Marlon Bush, UAB	6-3	280	Sr.
LB	Pernell Griffin, East Carolina	6-3	240	Sr.
LB	Rod Davis, Southern Miss	6-2	231	So.
LB	Brian Zickefoose, Army	5-10	210	Sr.
LB	Roy Magee, Southern Miss	6-2	220	Sr.
CB	Jason Parker, Houston	5-10	180	Sr.
CB	Lynaris Elpheage, Tulane	5-9	156	So.
S	Chad Williams, Southern Miss	5-10	200	Sr.
S	Anthony Floyd, Louisville	5-10	195	Jr.

### Specialists

K	Jonathan Ruffin, Cincinnati	5-10	185	Jr.
P	Casey Roussel, Tulane	6-1	223	Sr.
KR	LaTarence Dunbar, TCU	5-11	187	Jr.

### Players of the year

**Offense:** Dave Ragone, QB, Louisville

**Defense:** Pernell Griffin, LB, East Carolina



# 1 East Carolina

**Offensive philosophy:** The Pirates will bring a little bit of everything to the game plan: option, one-back, I-backfield, empty backfield. Coach Steve Logan never is shy about trying the unexpected, and with QB David Garrard running the show, the Pirates are capable of pulling off the varied looks.

**Offensive stars:** Garrard might be the most dangerous quarterback in the league and is capable of taking a team on his shoulders. He can get the ball downfield with his strong arm, and he has become more adept at taking something off his fastball delivery over the years. His size (6-3, 235) makes him tough to bring down, either in the pocket or when running the option or scrambling. RB Leonard Henry emerged last season, averaging 5.3 yards, and backup Art Brown could be ready for expanded duties this season. The offensive line has some experience, led by Gs Chris Nelson and Aaron Walker and WRs Arnie Powell and Derrick Collier, who both can stretch defenses.

**Offensive concerns:** Minibacks Marcellus Harris and Keith Stokes were deadly out of the slot or on reverses last season. Their departures might force the team to use a conservative scheme—or at least a conservative one. Harris and Stokes were the top two receivers, followed by another departed senior, TE Rashon Burns. That puts more pressure on Powell, Dodd, Terrance Copper, Derrick Collier and Torey Morris to become playmakers. Garrard has cut down on his poor decisions, but on occasion he will try to do too much instead of letting game situations dictate his action. It's part of the maturing process, but the Pirates need Garrard to be at the top of his game.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Pirates are guided by the innovative Tim Rose, an early subscriber to the mutated 3-4 that brings blitzers from all angles and shuffles coverages. East Carolina allowed only one touchdown pass a game last season with a secondary that was learning the ropes. Meanwhile, the Pirates averaged nearly four sacks. Injuries gouged the defensive line and sidelined run-stuffing LB Pernell Griffin for three games. That helps explain the 161.5 rushing yards per game the team allowed, a figure the unit doesn't intend to allow again.

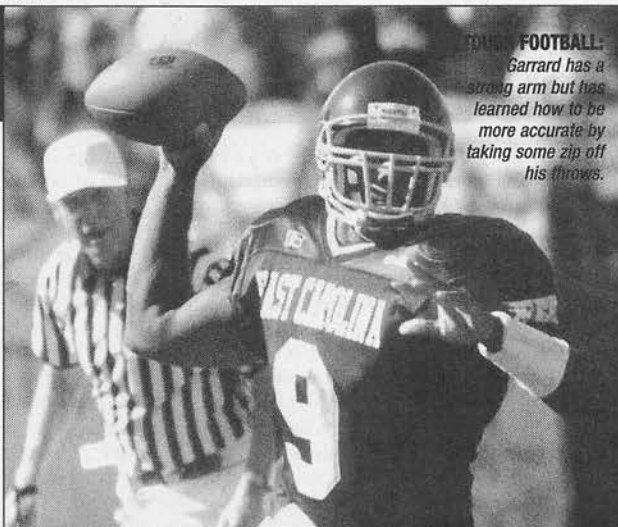
**Defensive stars:** Griffin is as good a linebacker as East Carolina has had since All-American Robert Jones played in 1991. Waiting in the wings is Vonta Leach, who stepped in when Griffin went down last year. The team would love to find a way to get both on the field, though that might be tough given the 2000 performances of LB Greg LeFever and OLBs John Williamson and Antwane Yelverton. The Adams twins, Anthony and Antwan, are solid at safety, capable of helping CBs Charlie Robinson and Kelly Hardy with the deep ball.

**Defensive concerns:** The middle line rotation was stripped, but Bernard Williams, Ty Hunt, and Chris Howell hold promise. If those seniors can't solidify the inside, the team has talented youngsters ready to step up.

**Special teams:** Kevin Miller wore out early, pulling double duty at kicker and punter, and the Pirates suffered with P Wes Herlocker's 34-yard average. Look for Miller to give up the punting chores. Stokes was an electrifying return man and will be missed. Look for Miller to stick to kicking.

**Coaching staff:** This staff is the best in the league, with Logan as the program's winningest coach. Logan's players feed off his emotion and intensity. His assistants are top-shelf, particularly coordinators Tim Rice and Doug Martin. Martin has been with Logan since he took over and has tutored QBs Marcus Crandall, Dan Gonzalez and Garrard.

**Bottom line:** Assuming the line performs, East Carolina has the makings of its best defense in years. The offense has two proven, big-time players in Garrard and Henry and could be potent if its receivers become consistent playmakers. The Pirates get both Louisville and Southern Miss at home and don't play thorn-in-the-side UAB. Those two games should decide the C-USA title, and whether East Carolina has to slug it out with two or three others for whatever postseason berth might be available.



**FOOTBALL:** Garrard has a strong arm but has learned how to be more accurate by taking some zip off his throws.

PETE WRIGHT / EAST CAROLINA

## National Rank 23

**Coach:** Steve Logan (83-16-1, 8 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Doug Martin (9th season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Tim Rose (2nd season)

**Offensive scheme:** Pro set

**Defensive scheme:** Multiple 3-4

**Starters lost:** 9

**Lettermen lost:** 18

**Lettermen returning:** 47

**Site:** Greenville, N.C.

**Stadium:** Dowdy-Ficklen

Stadium (grass, 43,000)

**Last league title won:** None

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1998

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 36

**2000 record:** 8-4 (beat Texas

Tech in Galleryfurniture.com

Bowl); C-USA: 5-2/2nd

**Website:** www.ecupirates.com

### 2000 Results

at Duke, W, 38-0  
Virginia Tech, L, 28-45  
Tulane, W, 37-17  
Syracuse, W, 34-17  
at Memphis, L, 10-17  
Army, W, 42-21  
at Louisville, W, 28-25  
UAB, L, 13-16  
Houston, W, 62-20  
at West Virginia, L, 24-42  
at Southern Miss, W, 14-9  
Texas Tech, W, 40-27

### Schedule

S1—Wake Forest  
S8—at Tulane  
S15—at Syracuse  
S22—William & Mary  
O6—at North Carolina  
O13—at Army  
O20—Memphis  
O30—at TCU  
N10—at Cincinnati  
N15—Louisville  
N23—Southern Mississippi

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Arnie Powell</b>	6-4	215	Sr.
	Aaron Harris	6-2	180	Sr.
T	Brandon Pope	6-3	275	So.
	<b>Phoenix Evans</b>	6-4	290	Jr.
G	<b>Aaron Walker</b>	6-3	310	Sr.
	Charlie Dempsey	6-4	275	So.
C	Doug White	6-2	280	So.
	Hagen Mason	6-2	300	Fr.*
G	<b>Chris Nelson</b>	6-4	290	Sr.
	Brian Fox	6-3	260	So.
T	Brian Rimpf	6-3	275	So.
	Corey Schmidt	6-3	285	So.
TE	Ben Thomas	6-2	240	Jr.
	Seth Yates	6-4	245	So.
WR	Derrick Collier	6-1	190	Sr.
	Torey Morris	6-1	180	Jr.
QB	<b>David Garrard</b>	6-3	235	Sr.
	Desmond Robinson	5-11	180	Fr.
RB	Terrance Cooper	6-1	192	So.
	Marcus White	6-0	190	So.
FB	<b>Leonard Henry</b>	6-1	200	Sr.
	Christshaw Gilliam	6-0	220	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>John Williamson</b>	6-2	240	Jr.
	Reggie Hamphill	6-2	235	Jr.
T	Ty Hunt	6-4	265	Sr.
	Damane Duckett	6-6	260	So.
T	Chris Howell	6-2	295	Sr.
	Derek Helms	6-3	280	So.
T	<b>Bernard Williams</b>	6-4	230	Sr.
	Ja'Waren Blair	6-4	260	Jr.
E	<b>Antwane Yelverton</b>	6-0	210	Jr.
	Kent Nesly	5-11	220	So.
LB	<b>Greg LeFever</b>	6-1	240	Sr.
	Vonta Leach	6-2	240	So.
LB	<b>Pernell Griffin</b>	6-3	240	Sr.
	Kevin Ward	6-2	225	Sr.
CB	<b>Kelly Hardy</b>	5-11	185	So.
	Brandon Rainer	6-1	175	So.
SS	Jerome Steward	5-10	175	Jr.
	<b>Anthony Adams</b>	5-11	180	Jr.
FS	<b>Antwan Adams</b>	5-11	180	Jr.
	Travis Heath	6-3	190	So.
CB	<b>Charlie Robinson</b>	6-0	185	Sr.
	Grover Benton	5-10	180	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
P	<b>Kevin Miller</b>	6-1	200	Jr.
K	Jared Preston	5-11	200	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 2 Louisville

**Offensive philosophy:** John L. Smith uses a high-powered version of the one-back offense, an adaptable spread that has been as prolific in the hands of a pocket passer (Chris Redman) as in the hands of a more mobile quarterback (Dave Ragone). The 2000 Cardinals were not quite as scary, but they were perfectly capable of driving 80 yards in four plays and better-equipped to grind down the clock.

**Offensive stars:** Ragone was a revelation, receiving C-USA offensive player of the year honors as a sophomore, and he is expected to be sturdier (about 240 pounds) and even more savvy with a year under his belt. The emergence of redshirt JC transfer WR Deion Branch will ease the loss of Arnold Jackson, Louisville's most prolific receiver ever. Dangerously swift Zek Parker opens the middle of the field with his speed routes, while another seam-stretcher, redshirt freshman J.R. Russell, could be the Cardinals' next receiving star. Ronnie Ghent may be the league's most complete tight end.

**Offensive weaknesses:** Tony Stallings rushed for 819 yards and had a healthy 4.5-yard average, but there's a nagging feeling the Cards could do better at running back, especially after the scheme helped produce 1,000-yard rushers in Louisville's previous two seasons. A healthy Chris Lester could push Stallings, though Stallings held off all challengers for the starting role last season. Here's something else to consider: Will Branch be as effective with coverages aimed in his direction now that Arnold is gone?

**Defensive philosophy:** In the first two seasons of the Smith regime, Louisville surrendered 28 points or more in 18 of 24 games. Last season, Smith and his staff began reaping the benefits of players recruited to fit their 4-3 flex. Players who were faster, stronger and had a better grasp of the system helped the Cards rank fourth nationally against the run (79.9 yards per game). One key was having cover men capable of playing man on the edges, taking away the soft underbelly of the zone, and a front that could stuff the run.

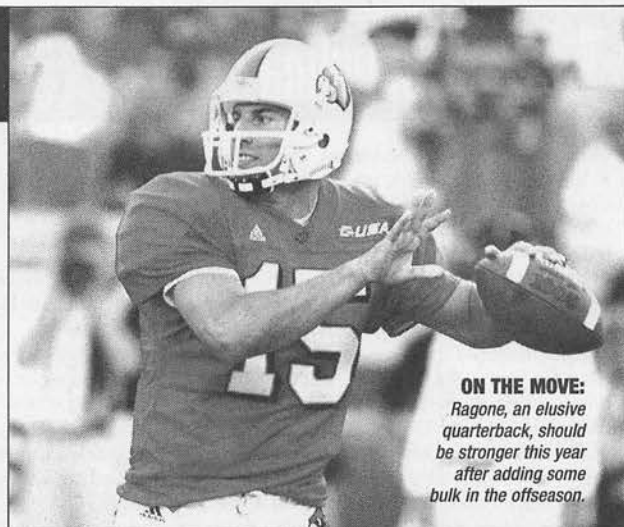
**Defensive stars:** Despite playing essentially nine games because of an ankle injury, E Michael Josiah tied for the league lead with 13 sacks and set a Cardinals record with 19 tackles for loss. Not bad for a guy who six years ago was playing on the national 18-and-under rugby team in Kenya. S Anthony Floyd had an All-American-caliber season, leading the nation with 10 interceptions. A ballhawk, he also recovered two fumbles and managed 57 tackles.

**Defensive concerns:** In the Cards' scheme, the interior linemen are not only asked to attack gaps, but to keep the linebackers clean, allowing them to make plays. Another key is on the edge, where the corners have to be able to provide man coverage. So, guess where the Cards got hit worst by offseason departures? Replacements need to be found for Ts Donovan Arp and Derrick Kennedy.

**Special teams:** Parker ranked second nationally last season in kickoff returns (28.9-yard average) and has seven returns of 60-plus yards in his career. The plan is to have the shifty Branch pull double duty on punts. Louisville allowed just 17.9 yards per kickoff return, while the 8.7 yards per punt return was more than acceptable. The Cards have a pair of experienced kickers in Nathan Smith and Wade Tydlacka, and Chris Sivori is a dependable punter.

**Coaching staff:** Coach Smith does not receive enough credit for the job he has done. When he arrived, the program was coming off a 1-10 season and was an internal mess. In three years, the Cards have received three bowl bids and claimed their first league crown last season. Much of Smith's staff has been with him for a long time, and that's a boon, as his assistants know and can zero in on the kind of kids needed to flourish in Louisville's schemes.

**Bottom line:** The Cards have plenty of cause to feel good about hanging on to their C-USA crown. The program is on the upswing, and Smith is not going to allow past successes to overshadow future plans. Although some Cards followers are dusting off Howard Schnellenberger's war cry about national titles and time being the only variable, it may be a bit premature to make New Year's Day reservations. First, the Cards need to muscle their way into the Top 25 on a regular basis, then win a postseason game before looking too far ahead. But with Smith in charge, Louisville is going to be a contender for the foreseeable future, and that includes this season.



**ON THE MOVE:** Ragone, an elusive quarterback, should be stronger this year after adding some bulk in the offseason.

DAVE KLOTZ / UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

## National Rank 28

**Coach:** John L. Smith (23-13, 3 years; 92-52 overall, 12 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Scott Linehan (3rd season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Chris Smeland (4th season)

**Offensive scheme:** One-back

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 8

**Lettermen lost:** 17

**Lettermen returning:** 43

**Site:** Louisville, Ky.

**Stadium:** Papa John's (grass, 42,000)

**Last league title won:** 2000

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1997

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 67

**2000 record:** 9-3 (lost to Colorado State in Liberty Bowl); C-USA: 6-1/1st

**Website:** www.uoflsports.com

### 2000 Results

Kentucky, W, 40-34 (OT)  
Grambling, W, 52-0  
at Florida State, L, 0-31  
Connecticut, W, 41-22  
at UAB, W, 38-17  
Cincinnati, W, 38-24  
East Carolina, L, 25-28  
Tulane, W, 35-32  
at Southern Miss, W, 49-28  
Army, W, 38-17  
at Houston, W, 32-13  
Colorado State, L, 17-22

### Schedule

S1—at Kentucky  
S8—Western Carolina  
S15—at Illinois  
S29—Memphis  
O4—Colorado State  
O16—Southern Mississippi  
O27—at Cincinnati  
N3—at Tulane  
N10—Houston  
N15—at East Carolina  
N24—at TCU

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Damien Dorsey	5-7	170	Jr.
	Antoine Harris	5-10	175	Fr.*
T	Jonta' Woodard	6-5	325	Jr.
	Buster Ashley	6-3	285	Fr.*
G	Aaron Dardzinski	6-1	270	Sr.
	Chris Thigpen	6-4	305	Jr.
C	Michael Bowers	6-3	320	Sr.
	Ariel Rodriguez	6-4	290	Jr.
G	Antoine Sims	6-2	295	Jr.
	Jason Hilliard	6-6	330	So.
T	Rob Eble	6-6	295	Sr.
	Jason Weathers	6-7	335	So.
TE	Ronnie Ghent	6-2	230	Jr.
	Richard Owens	6-4	265	So.
WR	Zek Parker	5-10	200	Sr.
	Victor Glenn	6-0	170	So.
QB	Dave Ragone	6-4	240	Jr.
	Stefan LeFors	6-0	185	Fr.*
RB	Tony Stallings	5-11	205	Sr.
	T.J. Patterson	6-0	210	So.
WR	Deion Branch	5-10	195	Sr.
	J.R. Russell	6-3	185	Fr.*

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Dwayne White	6-2	270	So.
	Devon Thomas	6-1	250	Jr.
T	Bobby Leffew	6-4	270	Fr.*
	Koby Clark	6-5	270	Sr.
T	Scott Lopez	6-3	270	So.
	Tyrone Saterfield	6-2	315	Fr.*
E	Michael Josiah	6-4	235	Jr.
	Chad Lee	6-2	245	Jr.
LB	Jeremy Collins	6-1	240	Jr.
	B.J. Steele	6-1	215	Jr.
LB	Jeromy Freitag	6-1	225	Sr.
	Rod Day	6-1	215	So.
LB	Michael Brown	5-11	210	Jr.
	Michael Everett	5-11	190	So.
CB	Josh Minkins	5-10	175	So.
	Laroni Gallishaw	5-11	200	Fr.*
SS	Curry Burns	6-1	200	Jr.
	Ray Childs	6-0	200	Fr.*
FS	Anthony Floyd	5-10	195	Jr.
	Brian Gaines	5-8	200	Sr.
CB	J.T. Haskins	5-10	170	Fr.*
	Wilbur Benson	5-8	165	Jr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Nathan Smith	5-8	160	So.
P	Chris Sivori	6-0	230	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 3 Southern Mississippi

**National Rank**  
**41**

**Coach:** Jeff Bower  
(67-47-1, 10 years)  
**2000 record:** 8-4 (beat TCU in the Mobile Alabama Bowl); C-USA: 4-3/4th  
**Site:** Hattiesburg, Miss.  
**Stadium:** Roberts (grass, 33,000)  
**Last league title won:** 1999  
**Website:** www.athletics.usm.edu

## Schedule

S1—Oklahoma State  
S15—at Alabama  
S22—at La.-Lafayette  
S29—Ala.-Birmingham  
O6—at Memphis  
O16—at Louisville  
O27—Houston  
N3—at Penn State  
N17—Tulane  
N23—at East Carolina  
N30—TCU

able to adopt more of coordinator's Chris Klenakis' playbook than they did running his variation on the scheme in his first year in Hattiesburg. **Offensive stars:** Jeff Kelly is one of only three quarterbacks to throw for 2,000 yards in a season twice, joining Brett Favre and Lee Roberts. RB Derrick Nix, an All-C-USA performer and 1,000-yard rusher as freshman and sophomore, is expected to be at full strength after an ankle injury and kidney condition ruined the 2000 season. **Offensive concerns:** USM must find ways to take some of that weight off Kelly's shoulders. There are major questions on the line. **Defensive philosophy:** With former LB Tyrone Nix taking over the coordinator's reins, USM likely will return to a more aggressive style, tweaking a morphed 3-4 to bring any number of players from any number of angles. **Defensive stars:** S Chad Williams might be the most talented player on the team, a 4.55 guy who can cover, hit like a linebacker and get to the quarterback. Rod Davis, a freshman All-American, leads a deep group of linebackers that includes three-year starter Roy Magee, who will be turned loose more after shifting back to the weak side. **Defensive concerns:** USM lost five line starters. Redshirt junior college transfers Rayshun Jones and Carlos Crusoe must carry the brunt inside for a group that was second nationally in total defense last season. **Special teams:** K Brant Hanna suffered through a nightmare of a night in the Alabama Mobile Bowl (0-for-4) and must improve his career rate of 63 percent. P Mark Haulman has one of the strongest legs in the league. **Coaching staff:** Jeff Bower is the dean of C-USA, heading into his 11th season, and has produced 41 victories in his last five seasons. Loyalty runs deep, with five former players and a former grad assistant on the staff. **Bottom line:** USM will be in the mix for one of the league's four bowl tie-ins. The Golden Eagles must win the turnover battle and be more consistent on offense to return to the top of the C-USA standings.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Dannye Fowler	5-10	175	Sr.
T	Jeremy Bridges	6-5	305	Jr.
G	Buck Micciotto	6-3	265	Jr.
C	Kendrick Key	6-4	266	Sr.
G	Torrin Tucker	6-6	315	Jr.
T	Jason Jimenez	6-7	299	Jr.
TE	Bobby Garner	6-2	230	Jr.
WR	LeRoy Handy	6-1	195	Jr.
WR	Rocky Harrison	6-2	200	Fr.
QB	Jeff Kelly	6-2	199	Sr.
RB	Derrick Nix	6-2	226	Sr.

Defense				
E	Brian Evans	6-4	232	So.
T	Terrell Paul	6-3	222	Jr.
E	Rayshun Jones	6-4	275	Sr.
NT	Carlos Crusoe	6-4	280	Jr.
OLB	Joe Henley	6-0	220	Jr.
MLB	Rod Davis	6-2	231	So.
OLB	Roy Magee	6-2	220	Sr.
CB	Greg Brooks	5-11	166	So.
SS	Chad Williams	5-10	200	Sr.
FS	Etric Pruitt	6-0	185	So.
CB	Corey Yates	5-10	172	Jr.

Special Teams				
K	Brant Hanna	6-2	205	Sr.
P	Mark Haulman	6-0	175	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold*

# 4 UAB

**National Rank**  
**45**

**Coach:** Watson Brown  
(31-35, 5 years;  
63-112-1 overall,  
16 years)  
**2000 record:** 7-4;  
C-USA: 3-4/5th  
**Site:** Birmingham, Ala.  
**Stadium:** Legion Field  
(grass, 82,000)  
**Last league title won:** None  
**Website:** www.blazers.uab.edu

## Schedule

A30—Montana State  
S8—at Florida State  
S15—at Pittsburgh  
S22—Army  
S29—at Southern Miss  
O6—at Central Florida  
O13—Cincinnati  
O20—Tulane  
O27—at Memphis  
N10—TCU  
N17—at Houston

Watson Brown intends to run a wide-open attack based on a one-back set with a twist—the no-huddle. **Offensive stars:** QB Jeff Aaron, a redshirt junior college transfer, can throw and run, whether by design or necessity. Brought along slowly in an offense decimated by injuries, Aaron did not start until last season's sixth game and did not commit a turnover until his fourth start. Jegil Dugger is the premier returning back in the league, an undersized slasher who is tough as nails and tough to tackle. **Offensive concerns:** The line must replace three starters, but T Wilbert Hamilton and G Andy Galloway might be better than the players they're replacing. Three tight ends are vying for playing time at a position that will be the edge blocker in some formations, supplanting the right tackle. **Defensive philosophy:** Bill Clay, the architect of a 4-2-5 scheme that was one of the best in the nation last season, has left. The defense now will be in the hands of Rick Christophel, who has been Brown's right-hand man for years. **Defensive stars:** The Blazers return the best line in the league, with E Bryan Thomas and NG Rodney Jones back. They'll team with E Marlon Bush and T Eddie Freeman on a front that played a big role in limiting opponents to 91.8 rushing yards a game last season. **Defensive concerns:** CBs Pat Burchfield and Chris Brown will be tested early, especially because the Blazers are so tough to run against. **Special teams:** K Rhett Gallego is an underrated weapon, laboring in a league sporting four top-notch kickers. The punting game is adequate. **Coaching staff:** Every year, Brown loses an assistant or three, and every year he plugs the gaps and rolls along. Brown is one the savviest and more personable coaches in the game. **Bottom line:** With a quirk of scheduling erasing East Carolina and Louisville from its slate, the Blazers can be a Conference USA contender in just their third season of league play and sixth season at the I-A level.

**Offensive philosophy:** The option no longer will be the No. 1 option for the Blazers. For the first time in his six seasons with the team, coach

## PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense				
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
SE	Leron Little	6-6	212	Sr.
T	Wilbert Hamilton	6-4	295	So.
G	Preston Fray	6-5	325	Sr.
C	Kirk Tuck	6-1	300	Jr.
G	Andy Galloway	6-5	310	Fr.*
TE	Shane Pearson	6-7	260	So.
QB	Jeff Aaron	6-3	205	Sr.
RB	Jegil Dugger	5-11	212	Sr.
FL	Willie Quinnie	6-2	180	Jr.
WR	Kenny Borders	6-3	190	Jr.
WR	T.J. Simmons	6-3	205	Jr.

Defense				
E	Marlon Bush	6-3	280	Sr.
T	Eddie Freeman	6-6	300	Sr.
NG	Rodney Jones	6-2	290	Sr.
E	Bryan Thomas	6-4	255	Sr.
LB	Nick Stewart	5-11	217	Sr.
MLB	Adrian Abrams	6-1	235	Sr.
WS	Avery Warner	6-2	205	Sr.
CB	Pat Burchfield	5-9	185	Sr.
FS	Adrian Singleton	6-2	210	Sr.
SS	Torrey Hale	5-9	185	Sr.
CB	Chris Brown	6-2	190	Jr.

Special Teams				
K	Rhett Gallego	6-0	185	Sr.
P	Ross Stewart	6-0	180	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*



# 5 Texas Christian

**National Rank**  
**48**

**Coach:** Gary Patterson (first year)  
**2000 record:** 10-2 (lost to Southern Miss in Mobile Bowl); WAC: 7-1/T1st

**Site:** Fort Worth, Texas  
**Stadium:** Amon G. Carter (grass, 44,008)  
**Last league title won:** 2000 (WAC)

**Website:**  
www.gofrogs.com

## Schedule

A25—at Nebraska  
S1—at North Texas  
S8—at SMU  
S15—Marshall  
S22—Northwestern St.  
S29—at Houston  
O13—at Tulane  
O20—Army  
O30—East Carolina  
N10—at UAB  
N24—Louisville  
N30—at Southern Miss

**Offensive philosophy:** With multi-talented QB Casey Printers running the show, the Horned Frogs will range from a full-house veer option to a

one-back, three-receiver look. The ground game is top priority, but TCU has enough depth and speed to get downfield in a hurry over the top.

**Offensive stars:** Printers was fourth in the nation in passing efficiency and handles the option with precision. WR LaTarence Dunbar can score from anywhere, and TEs B.J. Roberts and Matt Schobel are rugged blockers with soft hands. G Victor Payne gives TCU an anchor to rebuild the line.

**Offensive concerns:** Can 5-9 RB Andrew Hayes-Stoker carry the ground game, or are there enough backs in stock to turn it over to a cadre of runners? Can Printers sparkle without departed star LaDainian Tomlinson?

**Defensive philosophy:** The 4-2-5 scheme has been successful for TCU, which finished as the nation's No. 1 defense last season.

**Defensive stars:** LB Chad Bayer may be one of the best linebackers you've never heard of, and with Tennessee transfer Devon Davis, Josh Goolsby and LaMarcus McDonald, TCU is well-stocked at linebacker. FS Kenneth Hilliard gained experience at cornerback last season. DE Chad McCarty has the size and speed for a breakout season.

**Defensive concerns:** The Frogs are young. CBs Bo Springfield and Jason Goss will be tested early, and DTs John Turntine and Chad Pugh must show they can plug the interior holes and collapse pockets up the middle.

**Special teams:** Kicker is up for grabs, but P Joey Biasatti returns from a midseason injury, bringing his 41.6-yard average. Dunbar was the most dangerous kickoff return man in the nation at 33.7 yards per return.

**Coaching staff:** New head coach Gary Patterson will retain much of Dennis Franchione's highly successful system. Only one other coach returns: Mike Schultz, now the offensive coordinator. Chuck Driesbach (Western Michigan) takes over Patterson's duties as defensive coordinator.

**Bottom line:** After years of terrorizing the WAC, the Horned Frogs will find Conference USA a tad tougher. Don't discount TCU's chances at a fourth postseason trip, but the Frogs may be a year away from title contention.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	LaTarence Dunbar	5-11	187	Jr.
T	John Glud	6-6	332	So.
G	Victor Payne	6-1	305	Sr.
C	Jamal Powell	6-3	322	Jr.
G	J.T. Aughinbaugh	6-6	323	Jr.
T	Brady Barrick	6-5	303	Jr.
TE	B.J. Roberts	6-3	237	Sr.
WR	Reggie Harrell	6-3	209	Fr.
WR	Kevin Brown	5-10	180	Jr.
QB	Casey Printers	6-3	208	Jr.
RB	A. Hayes-Stoker	5-8	194	Sr.

### Defense

E	Chad McCarty	6-2	255	Sr.
T	John Turntine	6-2	267	Jr.
NT	Chad Pugh	6-3	277	So.
E	Joe Hill	6-4	238	Sr.
SLB	Chad Bayer	5-11	231	Sr.
MLB	Adrian Lewis	6-2	210	Sr.
CB	Jason Goss	5-9	182	Jr.
WS	Charlie Owens	6-0	188	Jr.
FS	Kenneth Hilliard	6-1	198	Jr.
SS	Jared Smitherman	6-0	210	Jr.
CB	Bo Springfield	5-10	183	Jr.

### Special Teams

K	Tommy Taylor	5-9	143	So.
P	Joey Biasatti	5-11	192	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold*

# 6 Cincinnati

**National Rank**  
**55**

**Coach:** Rick Minter (34-44-1, 7 years)  
**2000 record:** 7-5 (lost to Marshall in Motor City Bowl); C-USA: 5-2/2nd

**Site:** Cincinnati  
**Stadium:** Nippert (turf, 35,000)

**Last league title won:** 1964 (Missouri Valley)

**Website:**  
www.ucbearcats.com

## Schedule

S2—Purdue  
S8—at Army  
S15—Louisiana-Monroe  
S22—at Miami (Ohio)  
O6—Tulane  
O13—at UAB  
O20—at Houston  
O27—Louisville  
N3—Connecticut  
N10—East Carolina  
N24—at Memphis

**Offensive philosophy:** With Deontey Kenner at the controls, the Bearcats had few reservations about passing.

This year, with a new quarterback

and RBs Ray Jackson and DeMarco McCleskey running behind another edition of the Great Wall of Cincinnati, don't be surprised if the team reverts to the ground game. Still, with new coordinator Dave Baldwin's West Coast leanings, there are likely to be plenty of balls in the air.

**Offensive stars:** Jackson and McCleskey may be the best 1-2 punch in the league. WR LaDaris Vann can crack the deep seams. Ts Shawn Murphy and Josh Gardner are big but can handle the speed rushers.

**Offensive concerns:** After seeing its coaching staff get raided again, the team will break in another new coordinator in Baldwin, a former San Jose State head coach. He prefers to go downfield with the ball, but there may not be enough playmakers at receiver to get the job done.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Bearcats' scheme seems to fluctuate every other year. Their fifth coordinator in seven seasons, A.J. Christoff, will use a 4-3 that will shift and give offenses multiple looks.

**Defensive stars:** E Antwan Peek is a star in the making, and T Kirk Thompson can cause problems inside.

**Defensive concerns:** Plenty. Gone are the top six tacklers, including the entire linebacking unit and both safeties. But Lewis Carter and Willis Edwards may be better athletes than the departing linebackers.

**Special teams:** Jonathan Ruffin won the Lou Groza Award after hitting 26 of 29 field-goal attempts. Adam Wulfeck punted well, and Charlie Spencer averaged 26.3 yards on kickoff returns.

**Coaching staff:** The team lost four defensive assistants and two on offense. But that situation is old hat for Rick Minter, who has rebuilt his staff from near-scratch four times in his seven-year tenure. With its 7-4 regular-season mark, the Bearcats got Minter off the hot seat last season.

**Bottom line:** Too many holes on defense could hurt the Bearcats. QB Adam Hoover gets the first shot at running the offense, but Arizona State transfer John Leonard could wind up winning the job.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	LaDaris Vann	5-9	193	Jr.
T	Shawn Murphy	6-4	286	Sr.
G	DeWayne Johnston	6-1	306	Sr.
C	Josh Shneyderov	6-2	280	So.
G	Kirt Doolin	6-4	303	Jr.
T	Josh Gardner	6-4	286	Jr.
TE	J.R. Deatherage	6-4	238	Sr.
WR	Robert Drewrey	6-0	181	Sr.
WR	Tye Keith	5-8	181	Jr.
QB	Adam Hoover	6-1	193	Sr.
RB	DeMarco McCleskey	5-11	216	Jr.

### Defense

E	Antwan Peek	6-2	235	Jr.
T	Dan Wortman	6-2	276	Sr.
T	Kirk Thompson	6-1	260	Sr.
E	Derrick Adams	6-0	242	Jr.
OLB	Willis Edwards	5-11	227	Jr.
MLB	Lewis Carter	6-2	230	Sr.
OLB	Ken Wynne	6-1	225	Sr.
CB	LaVar Glover	5-10	178	Sr.
SS	Blue Adams	5-10	184	Jr.
FS	Frank Lang	5-10	187	Jr.
CB	Ivan Fields	5-11	182	Jr.

### Special Teams

K	Jonathan Ruffin	5-10	185	Jr.
P	Adam Wulfeck	6-0	236	Sr.

*Returning starters in bold*



# 7 Tulane

**National Rank**  
**71**

**Coach:** Chris Scelfo  
(10-13, 3 years)  
**2000 record:** 6-5;  
C-USA: 3-4/5th  
**Site:** New Orleans  
**Stadium:** Superdome  
(artificial turf, 69,767)  
**Last league title won:**  
1998  
**Website:**  
www.tulaneegreenwave.com

## Schedule

S1—at LSU  
S8—East Carolina  
S22—Central Florida  
S29—Southern  
O6—at Cincinnati  
O13—TCU  
O20—at UAB  
O27—at Army  
N3—Louisville  
N10—at Navy  
N17—at Southern Miss

**Offensive philosophy:** The Green Wave is gradually embracing the more balanced attack that coach Chris Scelfo wants. That said, Tulane

will remain one of the more prolific scoring teams in the league. The one-back base is a 400-yard offense in the hands of QB Patrick Ramsey and RB Mewelde Moore. Tulane still will spread the field and throw darts everywhere, but, and with only two starters back up front, it may have to. **Offensive stars:** Ramsey is going to erase the name of Shaun King in the record books if not the hearts of Tulane fans. Moore was a tough cookie as a freshman. WR Terrell Harris could play a major role.

**Offensive concerns:** The Wave has had a reputation as a finesse team that would eventually wilt against the punch-in-the-nose defenses on its schedule. That's what Scelfo is trying to change without gumming up the works.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Wave tends to play its 4-3 fairly straight, with an occasional blitz mixed in with line stunts. The problem of late has been a lack of size and strength in the trenches. Scelfo and his staff have added potential depth and good quality with their last two signing classes.

**Defensive stars:** T Roxie Shelvin and E Glenn Lemoine are expected to be leaders up front, along with T Lonnie Crayton. CB Lynaris Elpheage was a pleasant surprise as a freshman.

**Defensive concerns:** Tons. All three linebackers have to be replaced, and the top candidate for the middle, Oklahoma transfer Nick Simpson, tore a knee this spring. Tulane's defense was the second-worst unit in the league. **Special teams:** K Seth Marler and P Casey Roussel form a good kicking tandem. The Wave should have solid return/coverage squads.

**Coaching staff:** Scelfo never will have the flash of his predecessor, Tommy Bowden, but he may be laying a better base for long-term success instead of striking in the short term to punch a ticket out of town. He has proven he can be a dynamic recruiter, even though it's a tough sell.

**Bottom line:** Tulane's offense is capable of giving anyone on its schedule fits, but the defense is going to get shoved around too much. The Wave may be potent enough to notch a second consecutive winning season.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Roydell Williams	6-2	171	So.
T	Chrys Bullock	6-3	313	Sr.
G	Brendon Drysdale	6-1	281	So.
C	Torie Taulli	6-0	272	Sr.
G	Charles Caldwell	6-3	307	Sr.
T	Corey Sewell	6-2	281	Sr.
TE	Eddie Robinson	6-3	240	So.
WR	Terrell Harris	5-10	197	Sr.
WR	James Dunn	5-8	162	So.
QB	Patrick Ramsey	6-3	234	Sr.
RB	Mewelde Moore	6-1	198	So.

### Defense

E	Floyd Dorsey	6-0	248	Jr.
T	Lonnie Crayton	6-3	280	So.
T	Roxie Shelvin	6-2	272	Jr.
E	Glenn Lemoine	6-3	252	Sr.
SLB	David Dorsey	6-1	224	Sr.
MLB	Emmanuel Sewell	6-1	230	So.
WLB	Wesley Heath	6-0	195	So.
CB	Lynaris Elpheage	5-9	156	So.
SS	Terry Fontenot	5-11	203	Jr.
FS	Quentin Brown	5-9	160	Jr.
CB	Jeff Sanchez	5-10	169	Jr.

### Special Teams

K	Seth Marler	6-0	178	Jr.
P	Casey Roussel	6-1	223	Sr.

*Returning starters in bold*

# 8 Houston

**National Rank**  
**78**

**Coach:** Dana Dimel  
(3-8, 1 year; 26-20 overall, 4 years)  
**2000 record:** 3-9;  
C-USA: 2-5/7th  
**Site:** Houston  
**Stadium:** Robertson  
(grass, 32,000)  
**Last league title won:**  
1996 (tie)  
**Web site:**  
www.uhcougars.com

## Schedule

S1—Rice  
S15—at Georgia  
S22—Texas  
S29—TCU  
O6—at Army  
O13—Memphis  
O20—Cincinnati  
O27—at Southern Miss  
N3—at South Florida  
N10—at Louisville  
N17—Ala.-Birmingham

**Offensive philosophy:** Coach Dana Dimel brought his one-back to town last season, but the running game rarely got untracked. Dimel is

demanding a more physical approach—and more looks—this season. **Offensive stars:** While the return of WRs Brian Robinson and KeyKowa Bell bodes well, the biggest boost may come from Orlando Iglesias and Brandon Middleton. Iglesias, who went down with a broken ankle in Week 2 last season, is a nightmare to cover. Middleton had 241 yards in his first three games before going out with a knee injury.

**Offensive concerns:** Who replaces QB Jason McKinley? Walk-on Kelly Robertson drew kudos in the spring, and converted DB Alvin Lee dusted off his option skills. But both will have to contend with the return of Bubba Teague, the only Cougar on the roster to take a snap last season.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Cougars use an unusual 4-2-5 scheme that features three safeties and rare reads. The key is good line play, which allows the back seven to shift and slide without subbing.

**Defensive stars:** The key to the defense's back door, the trio of safeties, will be manned by the Milligan twins, Hanik and Hamin, and Heard Robinson. CB Jason Parker gives the Cougars a proven cover man.

**Defensive concerns:** Can youngsters Nick Stavino, Travis Griffith and Justin Davis fill the vacancy left by star LB Wayne Rogers? If not, JC transfer John Shivers may be pressed into duty. The front line is unproven.

**Special teams:** They're awful. Punting was not a duty but an adventure, and the kickers connected on only 10 of 21 field-goal tries. The Cougars ranked last in punt returns and were middle-of-the-road on kickoffs. Dimel assigned RB coach Eric Wolford extra duties as special teams coordinator.

**Coaching staff:** Turnover was heavy in the offseason, but Dimel will continue to have a big say in the offense, even with QB coach Dave Warner and OL coach Clancy Barone being assigned co-coordinator duties.

**Bottom line:** The Cougars can put some serious speed on the field, and the staff has made inroads into the Texas recruiting hotbeds. But it may be a year or two before all the pieces come together.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Brandon Middleton	5-11	182	So.
T	Chris Redding	6-4	335	Jr.
G	Rex Hadnot	6-1	310	So.
C	Al James	6-0	295	So.
G	Darnerius Watson	6-2	300	Sr.
T	Jabari Beauford	6-4	300	Sr.
TE	Jonathan Pritchett	6-4	255	Jr.
WR	Orlando Iglesias	6-3	220	Sr.
WR	Brian Robinson	6-4	200	Jr.
QB	Bubba Teague	6-2	190	So.
RB	Leif Penn	5-9	198	Sr.

### Defense

E	David Midyett	6-2	245	So.
T	Bryan Hill	6-1	285	Jr.
T	Lee Ingersoll	6-3	275	Sr.
E	Adrian Lee	6-2	235	Jr.
WLB	Arthur Gissendanner	6-2	225	Sr.
MLB	Justin Davis	6-2	225	So.
CB	Jason Parker	5-10	180	Sr.
CB	Bobby Tillman	5-10	195	Fr.
SS	Heard Robinson	6-2	205	So.
FS	Hamin Milligan	6-2	185	Sr.
WS	Hanik Milligan	6-3	200	Jr.

### Special Teams

K	Dustin Bell	6-2	210	Fr.
P	Jeff Patterson	6-1	198	Sr.

*Returning starters in bold*



# 9 Memphis

**National Rank**  
**83**

**Coach:** Tommy West  
(1st season; 35-35 overall, 6 years)  
**2000 record:** 4-7;  
C-USA: 2-4/7th  
**Site:** Memphis  
**Stadium:** Liberty Bowl  
(grass, 62,380)  
**Last league title won:**  
1971 (Missouri Valley)  
**Website:**  
www.gotigersgo.com

## Schedule

S1—at Mississippi State  
S8—UT-Chattanooga  
S22—South Florida  
S29—at Louisville  
O6—Southern Miss  
O13—at Houston  
O20—at East Carolina  
O27—UAB  
N10—at Tennessee  
N17—Army  
N24—Cincinnati

**Offensive philosophy:** First-year coach Tommy West will try to perk up the league's least productive offense by going to a one-back, no-huddle look

designed to keep defenses on their heels through tempo and scheme.  
**Offensive stars:** The new offense fits QB Travis Anglin like a pair of old jeans. RB Aaron Meadows made a surprising move to the top of the depth chart in spring. WRs Ryan Johnson, Bunkie Perkins and newcomer Tavarious Davis give the passing game a chance.

**Offensive concerns:** Anglin must show consistency and must prove he can avoid injuries. Until Memphis shows it can throw the ball successfully, teams are going to pack the box with eight defenders.

**Defensive philosophy:** Memphis uses a 4-3 scheme to produce one of the stingiest units in the country.

**Defensive stars:** DE Andre Arnold was an All-Conference USA selection on a line that also features NT Boris Penchion and DT Calvin Lewis. The linebacking corps of Greg Harper, DeMorrio Shanks and up-and-coming OLB Derrick Ballard should be plenty tough to run on. S Glenn Sumter and CB Marcus Smith are the best in a depleted secondary.

**Defensive concerns:** Can E Tony Brown stabilize the front? Can Shank and Terry stay healthy and provide tenacity? Can DBs Bo Arnold or Utah State transfer Elijah Bell shore up the secondary?

**Special teams:** Despite a modest junior season, K Ryan White is capable from 45 yards in. Johnson showed flashes on kickoff returns and was a solid punt return man. The coverage teams could use a boost.

**Coaching staff:** West has held the top positions at Chattanooga and Clemson. Expect the Tigers to run a tight ship. Defensive ends coach Rick Whitt has been with West at two previous stops, and first-year offensive coordinator Randy Fichtner has plenty of experience with the passing game after spending time at Purdue.

**Bottom line:** The defense may need a year of seasoning, putting even more responsibility on the offense to pull its own weight. The Tigers, thus, may have trouble staying in the middle of the C-USA pack.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
FL	Bunkie Perkins	5-9	155	Sr.
T	Artis Hicks	6-5	315	Sr.
G	Josh Eargle	6-2	292	Sr.
C	Jimond Pugh	6-3	300	Jr.
G	Trey Eyre	6-3	300	Jr.
T	Joey Gerda	6-6	307	Jr.
TE	Jeff Cameron	6-4	243	Jr.
SE	Ryan Johnson	5-11	190	Jr.
RB	Aaron Meadows	6-0	198	Sr.
QB	Travis Anglin	6-4	197	Jr.
FB	Darche Epting	6-1	242	Jr.

### Defense

E	Tony Brown	6-3	274	Sr.
T	Eric Taylor	6-3	283	So.
NT	Boris Penchion	6-4	269	Jr.
E	Andre Arnold	6-4	238	Sr.
OLB	Derrick Ballard	6-2	205	So.
ILB	DeMorrio Shank	5-10	240	Sr.
OLB	Greg Harper	6-1	223	So.
CB	Marcus Smith	5-10	186	Sr.
SS	Glenn Sumter	6-2	198	So.
FS	Jason Brown	5-10	187	So.
CB	Anthony Harden	5-10	172	So.

### Special Teams

K	Ryan White	5-9	182	Sr.
P	Jason Johnson	6-3	235	Fr.*

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

# 10 Army

**National Rank**  
**99**

**Coach:** Todd Berry  
(1-10, 1 year; 25-34 overall, 5 years)  
**2000 record:** 1-10;  
C-USA: 1-6/9th  
**Site:** West Point, N.Y.  
**Stadium:** Michie (turf, 39,929)  
**Last league title won:**  
None  
**Website:**  
www.goarmysports.com

## Schedule

S8—Cincinnati  
S15—Buffalo  
S22—at UAB  
S29—at Boston College  
O6—Houston  
O13—East Carolina  
O20—at TCU  
O27—Tulane  
N3—at Air Force  
N17—at Memphis  
D1—vs. Navy

**Offensive philosophy:** After Todd Berry arrived from Illinois State, the Black Knights unveiled an offense that was 180 degrees from the

stodgy triple option favored under Bob Sutton. Though Army stumbled to a 1-10 record, Berry stayed true to the one-back, tight end-friendly scheme that helped him build Illinois State into a Division I-AA power.

**Offensive stars:** RB Josh Holden gained 4.5 yards per carry in limited action last season, and Berry calls him a better fit for his scheme than departed star FB Michael Wallace. WR Omari Thompson may be the team's biggest breakaway threat.

**Offensive concerns:** The gap is not as yawning, but the club still has a ways to go to match the speed of the defenses it faces. QBs Chad Jenkins and Curtis Zervic threw more interceptions than touchdown passes.

**Defensive philosophy:** The team calls it a 4-4, but OLB Brian Zickefoose is more of a head-knocking safety as a "sweeper." Army, gouged badly on the ground in 2000, should have a beefier, healthier front.

**Defensive stars:** Zickefoose was among the league's top tacklers in 2000. Ts Clarence Holmes and Paddy Heiliger can be physical when healthy.

**Defensive concerns:** A lack of speed is the most serious issue. This could be one of the few conference teams that does not have the quickness to play press coverage. The Black Knights also have tended to wear down.

**Special teams:** Thompson topped the league in punt returns, but Army's coverage units left a lot to be desired, as did the kicking.  
**Coaching staff:** The one-win season has not muted Berry and Co.'s optimism. With the offensive and defensive systems being reinforced for a second season, Berry has won over his players, who have faith in what the staff is doing. And with Army able to dip into a national recruiting pool, the Black Knights should be able to find enough players to fit into both systems.

**Bottom line:** Army ought to be a better team, but the Black Knights are still a work in progress, particularly at the skill positions on offense and the speed positions on defense.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Brian Bruenton	6-2	215	Jr.
T	Paul Henderson	6-3	294	Sr.
G	Aaron Burger	6-1	290	Jr.
C	Dustin Plumadore	6-1	305	Sr.
G	Alex Moore	6-1	282	Jr.
T	Craig Cunningham	6-3	305	Jr.
TE	Clint Dodson	6-4	235	Sr.
WR	Aris Comeaux	5-10	178	Jr.
WR	Omari Thompson	5-7	160	Sr.
QB	Chad Jenkins	5-11	180	Sr.
RB	Josh Holden	6-0	208	Jr.

### Defense

E	David McCracken	6-3	236	Sr.
T	Paddy Heiliger	6-3	268	Jr.
T	Clarence Holmes	6-2	261	Jr.
E	Brandon Perdue	6-2	225	Jr.
OLB	Ben Woodruff	6-2	197	Sr.
ILB	B.J. Wiley	5-11	224	Sr.
ILB	Jason Frazier	5-11	227	So.
OLB	Brian Zickefoose	5-10	210	Sr.
CB	Emiko Terry	5-7	170	Jr.
FS	Brent Dial	6-0	187	Sr.
CB	Mike Sehzuze	5-10	176	Jr.

### Special Teams

K	Anthony Zurisko	5-10	190	So.
P	Dan MacElroy	6-0	190	Sr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# Mountain West

## Ambitious schedules can lift league's image ... or knock it down

By MARK ANDERSON

Following the directive of conference commissioner Craig Thompson, Mountain West schools are once again playing tough schedules.

Every conference team faces a challenging slate, from Air Force playing Oklahoma to Wyoming playing Texas A&M. And then check out what awaits San Diego State and UNLV.

The Aztecs open by playing Arizona, Arizona State, Ohio State and Colorado State.

UNLV's first five opponents are Arkansas, Northwestern, Colorado State, Arizona and Brigham Young.

The idea is to improve national stature for the conference, but injuries last season proved that concept can backfire.

**Ascending:** San Diego State. The Aztecs are coming off a dreadful season, but many young players gained experience and showed promise. With the addition of a good-quality recruiting class, expect the Aztecs to cause opponents trouble.

**Descending:** Air Force. The Falcons sustained too many personnel losses to make a legitimate run at the Mountain West title. Well, we think. Any time the Falcons are written off, coach Fisher DeBerry and his staff prove the doubters wrong.

**Dream schedule:** Air Force. No, we're not forgetting the Falcons open against defending national champion Oklahoma. But playing Tennessee Tech and the requisite games against Army and Navy isn't a tall order. Air Force does play at Hawaii, which is not easy, but that is another winnable game.

**Nightmare schedule:** UNLV. The first five games (Arkansas, Northwestern, Colorado State, Arizona and Brigham Young) are ridiculous. UNLV also plays late-season games at less-than-balmy Wyoming, New Mexico and Air Force. This could be one of the better UNLV teams, but the record might not indicate such.

**Best matchup:** Colorado State vs. Colorado, September 1 in Denver. This has become the most interesting annual matchup involving a Mountain West team and one that has made the conference look good with the Rams battling Colorado for that state's premier football position. Heck, Colorado may even face a challenge from Air Force.

**Ugliest matchup:** Texas A&M at Wyoming, September 6. It was the conference's ugliest last season, one that prompted Wyoming coach Vic Koenning to accuse the Aggies of running up the score in a 51-3 win.

**Upset of the year:** UNLV at Arizona, September 22. The Rebels will be nearing the end of the horrible five-game run that opens the season. After tough games against Arkansas, Northwestern and Colorado State, all potential losses, UNLV probably won't be taken too seriously by the Wildcats. But with Jason Thomas at quarterback, a lot is possible for the Rebels.

**Bowl bound:** Colorado State, San Diego State and UNLV. The Rams are the league's best team and once again should make the Liberty Bowl. No other conference team is a lock for a bowl, especially considering San Diego State is traditionally schizophrenic. UNLV has that tough schedule, and BYU needs to find a quarterback.

**Biggest shoes to fill:** LB Rick Crowell, Colorado State. Eric Pauly will make the attempt. If nothing else, he is brave. Pauly turned down an offer to play at Notre Dame.

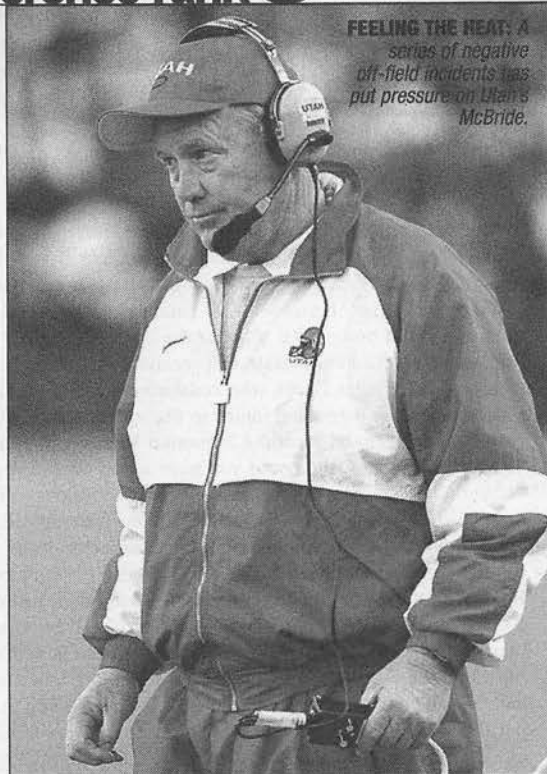
**Most overrated:** San Diego State DL Jerome Haywood. He made 40 tackles, eight for losses, and was chosen first-team All-Mountain West by the media. Huh?

**Most underrated:** San Diego State LB Jomar Butler. He made 112 tackles, nine for losses, and was chosen second-team all-conference. Huh?

**Best coaching staff:** Colorado State. There is a reason the Rams have become the conference's premier team. This is a fundamentally solid program that rarely beats itself.

**Coaches on the hot seat:** San Diego State's Ted Tollner and Utah's Ron McBride. Tollner is through the guaranteed part of his contract, and there is heavy pressure to produce after successive disappointing seasons. McBride has to get through a demanding schedule and overcome the image problem his program has absorbed because of a series of negative off-field incidents.

**Best bets:** There will be more player arrests than victories at Utah. ... Wyoming's Koenning will complain about officiating at least once a week. ... BYU fans will continue to believe their school invented football and wonder why opponents don't just roll over. ... San Diego State will lose at least two games it shouldn't. ... Colorado State will finally win the respect of at least one East Coast sportswriter. ... Air Force and New Mexico will make strong first-half runs and fade late.



FEELING THE HEAT: A series of negative off-field incidents has put pressure on Utah's McBride.

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

MOUNTAIN WEST

## ALL-LEAGUE

### Offense

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Ryan Fleming, Air Force	6-5	225	Sr.
WR	Pete Rebstock, Colorado State	5-9	190	Sr.
TE	Jose Ochoa, Colorado State	6-3	255	Sr.
T	Ben Miller, Air Force	6-4	270	Sr.
T	Aaron McCubbins, BYU	6-3	295	Sr.
G	Broc Finlayson, Colorado State	6-5	315	Sr.
G	David Moreno, San Diego State	6-2	285	Sr.
C	Jason Scukanec, BYU	6-2	282	Sr.
QB	Jason Thomas, UNLV	6-4	230	Jr.
RB	Cecil Sapp, Colorado State	6-1	216	Jr.
RB	Larry Ned, San Diego State	5-11	215	Sr.

### Defense

E	Brian Johnson, New Mexico	6-3	280	Sr.
T	Garrett Smith, Utah	6-3	276	Jr.
T	Justin Pendry, Air Force	6-6	285	Sr.
E	Anton Palepoi, UNLV	6-4	275	Sr.
LB	Jomar Butler, San Diego State	5-11	205	Sr.
LB	Justin Ena, BYU	6-3	261	Sr.
LB	David Vickers, Colorado State	6-0	211	Jr.
CB	Kevin Thomas, UNLV	5-11	180	Sr.
CB	Stephen Persley, New Mexico	5-9	175	Sr.
S	Aaron Sprague, Colorado State	6-2	219	Sr.
S	Will Damps, San Diego State	6-0	215	Sr.

### Specialists

K	Vladimir Borombozin, New Mexico	5-10	175	Sr.
P	Aaron Edmonds, BYU	5-11	192	Sr.
KR	Pete Rebstock, Colorado State	5-9	190	Sr.

### Players of the year

Offense: Jason Thomas, QB, UNLV

Defense: Brian Johnson, E, New Mexico



# 1 Colorado State

**Offensive philosophy:** Much of the style will depend on which quarterback wins the starting job. If it's D.J. Busch, the Rams will stay with the type of offense they ran behind Matt Newton, a traditional dropback passer who made few mistakes. Busch's competition is Bradlee Van Pelt, son of former New York Giant Brad Van Pelt. Van Pelt, who transferred from Michigan State, is a playmaker who could open up the offense with his running ability. The battle is tight and could be decided close to the opener.

**Offensive stars:** Colorado State will receive a big boost from the return of WR Dallas Davis, who redshirted last season after sustaining a serious hamstring injury in the second game. Davis and Pete Rebstock should form the Mountain West's best combination. Throw in TE Jose Ochoa, and you have a trio who have each earned all-conference honors in the past two seasons. Colorado State also should be able to run the ball, even though RB Cecil Sapp broke his ankle in the spring. He is expected to be fine by the fall, and Kansas transfer Henri Childs also is highly regarded.

**Offensive concerns:** After the Rams lost top linemen Justin Borvansky and Tim Stuber, the temptation would be to say the team will struggle up front. Replacing those players won't be easy, but Colorado State still may be solid because the talent is there with newcomers Mark Dreyer and Erik Pears stepping in. Pears, in particular, could be a big-time player and has the potential to be among the best Colorado State has ever had. Still, until the play on the field confirms their ability, nothing is given. And will the new quarterback keep the offense rolling the way Newton did?

**Defensive philosophy:** With what should be a solid set of linebackers, the Rams probably will put plenty of pressure on opponents. Having a solid secondary makes taking chances that much easier. Forcing opponents into mistakes has been a key in the past, and it should continue to be.

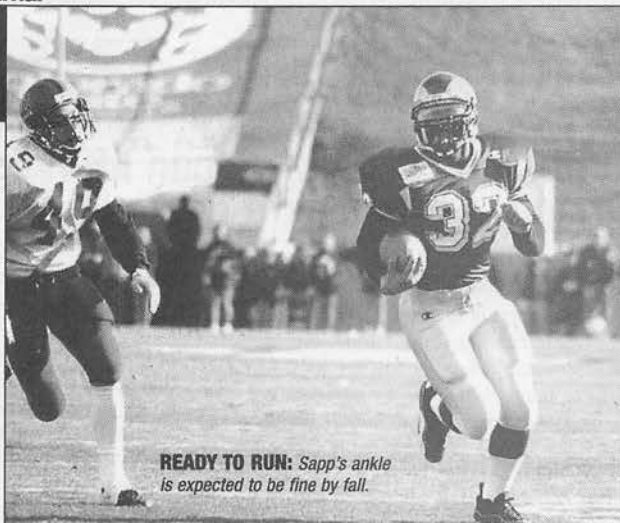
**Defensive stars:** LB Adam Wade should return from an ACL injury, and if he is healthy enough and hasn't lost anything, expectations are high for him to produce. Meanwhile, Jason Gallimore, Justin Gallimore and Aaron Sprague give Colorado State as talented a secondary as there is in the conference.

**Defensive concerns:** Overcoming the loss of LB Rick Crowell will not be an easy task. It is one Eric Pauly, who turned down a chance to go to Notre Dame, will take on. Wade's recovery should be closely watched and will help determine how the defense performs. Colorado State also runs a four-player rotation at tackle, and three members of that tandem are gone from last season.

**Special teams:** The search is on to replace K.C.W. Hurst, and the job could fall to a walk-on. Fortunately for the Rams, P. Joey Huber returns after a good season. They might have the conference's best returners in Davis and Rebstock, and Childs has the potential to break some returns as well.

**Coaching staff:** Colorado State sustained a difficult loss when offensive coordinator Steve Fairchild left to coach running backs for the Buffalo Bills. Coach Sonny Lubick, who has done a sensational job of getting the most out of his players, has turned the coordinator's job over to two assistants. Offensive line coach John Benton and quarterbacks coach Dan Hammerschmidt will share duties. Benton is in charge of play-calling. Also, the wide receivers coach will be Matt Lubick, who accepted a \$20,000 payout when he quit as Oregon State's secondary coach to work for his dad.

**Bottom line:** Colorado State has established itself as the conference's top team year in and year out. That shouldn't change this season. There isn't another Mountain West team that can match the Rams throughout their lineup. And with Sonny Lubick in charge, Colorado State should maintain its reputation as a team that doesn't beat itself. Once again, make those holiday plans for Memphis. The Rams are going to the Liberty Bowl for the third consecutive season.



COLORADO STATE

## National Rank 31

**Coach:** Sonny Lubick (67-29, 8 years; 88-48 overall, 12 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Dan Hammerschmidt and John Benton (1st season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Larry Kerr (9th season)

**Offensive scheme:** One-back

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 10

**Lettermen lost:** 15

**Lettermen returning:** 42

**Site:** Fort Collins, Colo.

**Stadium:** Hughes (grass, 30,000)

**Last league title won:** 2000

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1998

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 31

**2000 record:** 10-2 (beat Louisville in Liberty Bowl); Mountain West: 6-1/1st

**Website:** www.csrams.com

### 2000 Results

vs. Colorado, W, 28-24  
E. Tennessee State, W, 41-7  
at Arizona State, L, 10-13  
at Nevada, W, 45-14  
New Mexico, W, 17-14  
UNLV, W, 20-19  
at Utah, W, 24-17  
at San Diego State, W, 34-22  
BYU, W, 45-21  
at Air Force, L, 40-44  
Wyoming, W, 37-13  
Louisville, W, 22-17

### Schedule

S1—vs. Colorado  
S8—Nevada  
S14—at UNLV  
S22—San Diego State  
S29—at Wyoming  
O4—at Louisville  
O13—Fresno State  
O27—Utah  
N1—at BYU  
N8—Air Force  
N17—at New Mexico

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Joey Cuppari	6-1	175	Jr.
	Pete Rebstock	5-9	190	Sr.
T	David Shohet	6-6	315	Sr.
	Aaron Green	6-5	270	Jr.
G	Morgan Pears	6-8	320	Jr.
	Broderick Lancaster	6-4	315	Sr.
C	Mark Dreyer	6-4	270	So.
	Broderick Lancaster	6-4	315	Sr.
G	Broc Finlayson	6-5	315	Sr.
	Terrell Gardner	6-6	395	So.
T	Kelly Wall	6-4	300	So.
	Aaron Green	6-5	270	Jr.
TE	Jose Ochoa	6-3	255	Sr.
	James Sondrup	6-6	257	So.
WR	Eric Hill	6-0	185	So.
	Brad Svoboda	6-1	182	Sr.
QB	D.J. Busch	6-4	190	So.
	Bradlee Van Pelt	6-3	210	So.
RB	Cecil Sapp	6-1	216	Jr.
	Rahsaan Sanders	6-0	210	Jr.
HB	Matt Baldischwiler	6-3	230	So.
	Joey Cuppari	6-1	175	Jr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Peter Hogan	6-3	255	Jr.
	Wallace Thomas	6-3	239	Jr.
T	Lucas Smith	6-4	275	Sr.
	Patrick Goodpaster	6-3	260	Fr.*
T	Kelesio Howard	6-3	290	So.
	Patrick Goodpaster	6-3	260	Fr.*
E	Geoff Graue	6-4	243	Sr.
	Chad McGuckin	6-4	247	Sr.
OLB	Rocky Martin	6-2	210	Sr.
	Doug Heald	6-2	215	Jr.
MLB	David Vickers	6-0	211	Jr.
	Russell Kay	6-2	240	Sr.
OLB	Eric Pauly	6-4	214	So.
	Tony Colacion	6-2	240	Sr.
CB	Ameer Love	6-1	180	Sr.
	Dexter Winn	5-9	165	So.
SS	Aaron Sprague	6-2	219	Sr.
	Lenzie Williams	6-1	200	So.
FS	Jason Gallimore	5-10	200	Sr.
	Miles Kochevar	6-1	185	Fr.
CB	Justin Gallimore	5-10	195	Sr.
	Thal Woods	6-0	180	Sr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Kent Naughton	6-0	188	Sr.
P	Joey Huber	6-4	223	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 2 San Diego State

**National Rank**  
**42**

**Coach:** Ted Tollner  
(40-40, 7 years;  
66-60-1, 11 years)  
**2000 record:** 3-8;  
Mountain West:  
3-4/T5th  
**Site:** San Diego  
**Stadium:** Qualcomm  
(grass, 71,400)  
**Last league title won:**  
1986 (WAC)  
**Website:**  
www.goaztecs.com

## Schedule

A30—Arizona  
S8—at Arizona State  
S15—at Ohio State  
S22—at Colorado State  
S29—Air Force  
O6—Eastern Illinois  
O13—at UNLV  
O27—BYU  
N3—New Mexico  
N10—at Utah  
N17—Wyoming

**Offensive philosophy:** Coach Ted Tollner has taken over the play-calling, and he plans to make the offense more wide open. There are

plans for more motion and a shotgun to put life into that side of the ball. **Offensive stars:** RB Larry Ned comes back from shoulder and knee injuries and appears to be in excellent shape. Also, Lon Sheriff should be one of the conference's better quarterbacks, and there are talented receivers in J.R. Tolver, Derrick Lewis and Cal transfer Ronnie Davenport.

**Offensive concerns:** Will Ned make it through the season? Will Sheriff overcome missed spring practice time because of injury to hold off Texas transfer Adam Hall?

**Defensive philosophy:** San Diego State plays the traditional 4-3 but could switch to a 4-4 and eliminate the free safety position if that spot isn't adequately filled. The Aztecs want to blitz more than 60 percent of plays.

**Defensive stars:** Freshman CB Marviel Underwood is unproven, but his size and speed could push him into the starting lineup. Jomar Butler ranks among the Mountain West's best linebackers, and Will Demps is an outstanding strong safety.

**Defensive concerns:** The search is on for a free safety, with Garret Pavelko slated to start. The Aztecs would love to bring back James Samuel, but off-the-field problems may stop him after two years away from the team.

**Special teams:** Return teams were terrible last season, but Brian Simjanovski is one of the conference's best punters and will battle Arizona transfer Tommy Kirovski for the kicking job.

**Coaching staff:** The staff remains intact, but Tollner has taken the play-calling responsibilities away from Dave Lay, who still is the offensive coordinator. Tollner feels the pressure to win and wants to directly affect his destiny.

**Bottom line:** This isn't the first time San Diego State has taken a talented team into a season, but the Aztecs have a history of underperforming. If they play up to their potential, they will make the postseason.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	J.R. Tolver	6-1	205	Jr.
T	Chester Pitts	6-4	305	Sr.
G	Johnathan Ingram	6-2	290	Jr.
C	Raul Gomez	6-3	295	Jr.
G	David Moreno	6-2	285	Sr.
T	Mike Houghton	6-6	315	Sr.
TE	Brian Gelt	6-3	240	Sr.
HB	Deric Martin	6-2	185	Sr.
WR	Derrick Lewis	6-2	185	Sr.
QB	Lon Sheriff	6-3	215	Jr.
RB	Larry Ned	5-11	215	Sr.

### Defense

E	Andrew Brigham	6-3	255	Sr.
T	Anthony Foli	6-4	270	So.
NT	Jerome Haywood	5-9	280	Sr.
E	Ryan Iata	6-4	270	Jr.
OLB	Dylan Robles	6-1	225	Sr.
MLB	Beau Trickey	6-1	235	So.
OLB	Jomar Butler	5-11	205	Sr.
CB	Donte Gamble	5-8	160	Sr.
SS	Will Demps	6-0	215	Sr.
FS	Garret Pavelko	6-0	200	Sr.
CB	Ricky Sharpe	6-1	185	Jr.

### Special Teams

K	B. Simjanovski	6-3	230	Jr.
P	B. Simjanovski	6-3	230	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold*

# 3 UNLV

**National Rank**  
**53**

**Coach:** John Robinson  
(11-13, 2 years;  
115-48-4 overall,  
14 years)  
**2000 record:** 8-5 (beat  
Arkansas in Las Vegas  
Bowl); Mountain West:  
4-3/T3rd  
**Site:** Las Vegas  
**Stadium:** Sam Boyd  
(grass, 36,800)  
**Last league title won:**  
None  
**Website:**  
www.unlvrebels.com

## Schedule

S1—at Arkansas  
S7—Northwestern  
S14—Colorado State  
S22—at Arizona  
S29—Brigham Young  
O6—at Nevada  
O13—San Diego State  
O27—at Wyoming  
N3—Utah  
N10—at New Mexico  
N17—at Air Force

**Offensive philosophy:** Once again, UNLV will try a wide-open attack to utilize QB Jason Thomas' abilities. Thomas can throw 70 yards, make

the sideline pass or take off and run. More weight probably will be on his shoulders, considering the Rebels lost virtually their entire running attack.

**Offensive stars:** Beside Thomas, keep an eye on OG Tony Terrell, C Pete Tramontanas and WR Troy Mason. Two freshmen who may have immediate impact are WR Earvin Johnson and RB Dyante Perkins.

**Offensive concerns:** The Rebels have to replace standout RBs Jeremi Rudolph, Kevin Brown and James Wofford. Plus, they lost their best wide receiver (Nate Turner) and best lineman (John Greer).

**Defensive philosophy:** UNLV should stay with the more aggressive attack it went to last season. Instead of all-out blitzing, the Rebels like to use the ends to pressure the quarterback.

**Defensive stars:** CB Kevin Thomas didn't live up to his standards last year but still had a fine season. Look for improvement. Plus, Anton Palepoi, Scott Parkhurst and Ahmad Briggs lead an excellent group of ends, and LBs Shanga Wilson and Ryan Claridge are playmakers. The return of standout LB James Sunia from a major knee injury will help immensely.

**Defensive concerns:** The secondary could suffer with the losses of Randy Black and Amar Brisco, and the interior line must to a better job. **Special teams:** K Dillon Pieffer was a nice midseason surprise, and Mason was the conference's best punt returner. Someone needs to replace P/K Ray Cheetany, however.

**Coaching staff:** Stability was provided when coach John Robinson signed a five-year contract. It also was boosted when no assistants—as of our publication date—left for other jobs. The staff proved its worth last season.

**Bottom line:** If UNLV survives the first five games, the Rebels can make a run at the conference championship. But a rocky start could make a second-half rally difficult.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Troy Mason	5-10	170	Jr.
T	Brandon Blair	6-6	295	Jr.
G	Shane Wagers	6-5	300	Sr.
C	P. Tramontanas	6-5	275	Sr.
G	Tony Terrell	6-4	295	Jr.
T	Matt Williams	6-6	300	Jr.
TE	DeJhown Mandley	6-4	240	Jr.
WR	Bobby Nero	6-1	180	Sr.
TB	Jabari Johnson	6-0	200	Sr.
QB	Jason Thomas	6-4	230	Jr.
FB	Steven Costa	6-1	225	Jr.

### Defense

E	Anton Palepoi	6-4	275	Sr.
T	Ahmad Miller	6-4	295	Sr.
NG	Dietrich Canterberry	6-4	290	So.
E	Ahmad Briggs	6-3	230	Jr.
SLB	LaMar Owens	6-2	235	Sr.
MLB	Ryan Claridge	6-3	240	So.
WLB	Shanga Wilson	6-1	215	Sr.
CB	Jamal Wynn	6-0	185	Jr.
SS	Ross Dalton	6-3	205	Jr.
FS	Sam Brandon	6-3	195	Sr.
CB	Kevin Thomas	5-11	180	Sr.

### Special Teams

K	Dillon Pieffer	5-11	170	So.
P	Ryan McDonald	5-10	175	So.

*Returning starters in bold*



# 4 Brigham Young

**National Rank**  
**63**

**Coach:** Gary Crowton  
(1st season; 21-13 overall, 3 years)  
**2000 record:** 6-6;  
Mountain West: 4-3/T3rd  
**Site:** Provo, Utah  
**Stadium:** LaVell Edwards Stadium  
(grass, 65,000)  
**Last league title won:** 1999 (tie)  
**Website:**  
www.byucougars.com

## Schedule

S1—Nevada  
S8—at California  
S15—at Miss. State  
S29—at UNLV  
05—Utah State  
013—at New Mexico  
020—Air Force  
027—at San Diego St.  
N1—Colorado State  
N10—at Wyoming  
N17—Utah  
D1—at Hawaii

**Offensive philosophy:** When Gary Crowton was Louisiana Tech's coach, he ran a potent, wide-open offense. Such an approach is not for-

eign to BYU, and the plan is to spread the offense and constantly change sets.

**Offensive stars:** Although the Cougars are known for passing, this year's team has a strong running game with Luke Staley and Brian McDonald. A former BYU running back, Junior Mahe, returns from junior college to try to bolster the receivers unit.

**Offensive concerns:** Who will take over the starting quarterback job is anyone's guess. It comes down to Brandon Doman, Charlie Peterson and Bret Engemann. Sound familiar? Also, BYU lost its top three receivers.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Cougars can blitz more often if CB Jernaro Gilford produces as expected. BYU should have the freedom to play more man-to-man, especially with the aid of fellow CB Michael Lafitte.

**Defensive stars:** Gilford could be a star, and Joiner should be helped by the year of experience. But the Cougars' true strength is their linebackers: Justin Ena, Isaac Kelley and Paul Walkenhorst.

**Defensive concerns:** The Cougars lost three standout linemen, but there isn't much of a talent drop-off. Still, inexperience could be a key issue.

**Special teams:** Owen Pochman was a terrific kicker and will not be easy to replace. Freshman Matt Payne, will try, but he hasn't kicked since 1996 when he was a high school senior. Payne, 6-4, 247, who redshirted and went on a mission, is a Sebastian Janikowski clone.

**Coaching staff:** Crowton has the difficult task of following a legend, LaVell Edwards. Crowton kept the defensive staff intact but mixed up the offensive side by demoting Lance Reynolds from coordinator to offensive line coach and making other moves. Mike Borich now is the coordinator.

**Bottom line:** BYU isn't the BYU of old, but this is still a team capable of having a say in the conference race. The Cougars should be able to run the ball, and their defense is tough. But can they throw? That's a key.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Junior Mahe	5-10	190	Jr.
T	Ben Archibald	6-4	303	Jr.
G	Aaron McCubbins	6-3	295	Sr.
C	Jason Scukanec	6-2	282	Sr.
G	Teag Whiting	6-3	298	Sr.
T	Dustin Rykert	6-7	301	Jr.
TE	Gabriel Reid	6-3	246	Jr.
WR	Justin Anderson	5-10	175	Sr.
QB	Brandon Doman	6-1	195	Sr.
RB	Luke Staley	6-1	218	Jr.
FB	Mike Nielsen	6-0	195	Sr.

### Defense

E	Ryan Denney	6-7	275	Sr.
E	Brett Keisel	6-5	269	Sr.
T	Chris Watkins	6-2	285	Jr.
T	Ifo Pili	6-3	315	So.
ILB	Isaac Kelley	6-4	240	Sr.
ILB	Justin Ena	6-3	261	Sr.
OLB	Paul Walkenhorst	6-5	248	So.
CB	Jernaro Gilford	6-1	180	So.
SS	Levi Madarieta	6-2	210	So.
FS	Dustin Staley	5-11	178	Sr.
CB	Michael Lafitte	5-6	160	Sr.

### Special Teams

K	Matt Payne	6-4	247	Fr.*
P	Aaron Edmonds	5-11	192	Sr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

# 5 New Mexico

**National Rank**  
**80**

**Coach:** Rocky Long  
(12-23, three years)  
**2000 record:** 5-7.  
Mountain West:  
3-4/T 5th  
**Site:** Albuquerque, N.M.  
**Stadium:** University  
(grass, 31,218)  
**Last league title:** 1964 (WAC)  
**Website:**  
www.golobos.com

## Schedule

S1—UTEP  
S8—at Texas Tech  
S15—New Mexico State  
S22—at Baylor  
S29—at Utah  
06—at Wyoming  
013—Brigham Young  
027—Air Force  
N3—at San Diego State  
N10—UNLV  
N17—Colorado State

**Offensive philosophy:** After playing so conservatively last season, New Mexico plans to open up its offense.

**Offensive stars:** Rudy Caamano has

solidified himself as the starting quarterback and should benefit from a year of experience. Plus, he has the luxury of handing off to talented running backs Holmon Wiggins and Jarrod Baxter.

**Offensive concerns:** Both starting receivers are gone, so the plans for expanding the offense could run into problems. Injuries prevented the line from playing together all last season, and health could be an issue again.

**Defensive philosophy:** Coach Rocky Long installed the unorthodox and aggressive 3-3-5 defense last year, and it worked. However, no one has been found to play the Lobo position—essentially an extra safety—and New Mexico probably will go with a 3-4 look.

**Defensive stars:** E Brian Johnson is as good a defender as the Mountain West has, but losing NT Henry Stephens will mean more double-teams. LB Gary Davis and CB Stephen Persley also are proven players.

**Defensive concerns:** Other than Persley, there is plenty to worry about with the secondary, which is young. The line has some holes as well. **Special teams:** The Lobos blocked five kicks last season, and having athletic linebackers could help them continue to be aggressive. They also return K Vladimir Borombozin after a successful season, but P Cort Moffitt left for personal reasons. Jeff Grady or Mike Augustyniak must replace him.

**Coaching staff:** For the first time, Long did not lose any assistants after the season. He heads into his fourth season after overachieving the past two years. Questions about his future have ceased.

**Bottom line:** Can New Mexico play over its head again? Possibly. There is enough talent to make a run at the Mountain West's upper division and possibly receive a bowl bid. But there also are enough questions to consider this a middle-of-the-pack team. At least there are no more expectations of finishing last.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Dwight Counter	6-2	180	So.
T	B.J. Long	6-5	300	Sr.
G	Jeremy Sorenson	6-4	290	Sr.
C	Rashad McClure	6-3	295	Jr.
G	Jason Lenzmeier	6-5	305	So.
T	Jon Oliver	6-6	280	Sr.
TE	Joe Fiola	6-3	270	Jr.
WR	Joe Manning	6-0	180	Jr.
QB	Rudy Caamano	6-1	190	Jr.
RB	Holmon Wiggins	6-0	210	Sr.
FB	Jarrod Baxter	6-1	250	Sr.

### Defense

E	Adrian Terry	6-1	255	Jr.
NT	Tony Mazoti	6-4	290	Sr.
E	Brian Johnson	6-3	280	Sr.
LLB	Charles Moss	6-0	225	Jr.
MLB	Mohammed Konte	6-2	225	Sr.
RLB	Gary Davis	6-0	230	Sr.
FS	Scott Gerhardt	6-0	185	Sr.
S	Brandon Ratcliff	6-0	200	So.
S	Terrell Golden	5-10	195	So.
CB	Stephen Persley	5-9	175	Sr.
CB	Dante Childress	5-8	185	Sr.

### Special Teams

K	V. Borombozin	5-10	175	Sr.
P	Jeff Grady	6-2	220	Fr.*

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 6 Air Force

**National Rank**  
**84**

**Coach:** Fisher DeBerry  
(135-72-1, 17 years)

**2000 record:** 9-3 (beat Fresno State in Silicon Valley Bowl); Mountain West: 5-2/2nd

**Site:** Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Stadium:** Falcon (grass, 52,480)

**Last league title won:** 1998 (WAC)

**Website:**  
www.airforcesports.com

## Schedule

S1—Oklahoma  
S8—Tennessee Tech  
S15—Utah  
S29—at San Diego State  
O6—at Navy  
O13—Wyoming  
O20—at Brigham Young  
O27—at New Mexico  
N3—Army  
N8—at Colorado State  
N17—UNLV  
N24—at Hawaii

**Offensive philosophy:** With QB Mike Thiessen gone, the temptation is to go back to more of a pure option attack. The Falcons probably will to

some degree, but they return WR Ryan Fleming and would like to get the ball in his hands as much as possible.

**Offensive stars:** Fleming is the obvious choice, particularly given all the personnel losses. He is 6-5 and will catch almost anything in sight.

**Offensive concerns:** Keith Boyea and Bryan Blew are up for the quarterback job. Both are talented. Both are inexperienced. Also, the Falcons lost their top five rushers. Leading returning rusher Leotis Palmer gained 260 yards on 44 carries.

**Defensive philosophy:** The linebackers' progress might determine how much Air Force blitzes out of the 3-4 set. It's an young group with talent.

**Defensive stars:** FS Jeff Overstreet reminds coaches of 1985 All-American Scott Thomas. Overstreet is young and might make mistakes, but his future appears bright. LBs Jamie Arthur and Matt McCraney could produce.

**Defensive concerns:** The highly talented linebacker corps is gone, and replacing those players is the top defensive issue. The replacements could step in and do well, but it's mostly a guessing game at this point.

**Special teams:** Brooks Walters has a strong leg and looks to be the kicker, but he will be pushed by Adam Thornton. Punter will be come down to John Welsh and John Cortney.

**Coaching staff:** Coach Fisher DeBerry's staff returns intact, almost always a plus, and his system is ingrained and run to near perfection. As long as DeBerry is in charge, expect the Falcons to be a concern to opponents.

**Bottom line:** Be careful about predicting that Air Force will slip. On paper, the Falcons look as though they'll finish in the conference's lower half. There are too many vacancies to fill. But this is no ordinary program. It is based on a proven system, and the Falcons have played beyond expectations too many times to count them out.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Ryan Fleming	6-5	225	Sr.
T	Ben Miller	6-4	270	Sr.
G	Brian Strock	6-3	265	Sr.
C	Matt Mai	6-3	270	Sr.
G	Matt Joseph	6-5	280	Sr.
T	Joseph Pugh	6-3	265	Sr.
TE	Andy Lueckenhoff	6-2	200	Jr.
QB	Keith Boyea	5-10	190	Sr.
FB	Jimmy Burns	5-11	210	Sr.
RB	Leotis Palmer	5-8	175	Jr.
RB	Brandon Brown	6-0	170	Jr.

### Defense

OLB	Tre Cage	6-2	215	Sr.
LT	Dan Probert	6-4	270	Sr.
NG	Zach Johnson	6-3	265	Sr.
RT	Justin Pendry	6-6	285	Sr.
OLB	Matt McCraney	6-2	220	Sr.
ILB	Jamie Arthur	5-10	220	Sr.
ILB	Andy Rule	6-2	230	Sr.
CB	Paul Mayo	5-10	170	Jr.
SS	Sam Melinrod	6-1	200	Sr.
FS	Jeff Overstreet	6-0	170	So.
CB	Wes Crawley	6-0	190	Jr.

### Special Teams

K	Brooks Walters	6-0	185	Jr.
P	John Welsh	6-3	190	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold*

# 7 Utah

**National Rank**  
**96**

**Coach:** Ron McBride  
(75-53, 11 years)

**2000 record:** 4-7; Mountain West: 3-4/T5th

**Site:** Salt Lake City

**Stadium:** Rice-Eccles

(turf, 45,634)

**Last league title won:** 1999 (tie)

**Website:**  
www.utahutes.com

## Schedule

S1—Utah State  
S8—at Oregon  
S15—at Air Force  
S22—at Indiana  
S29—New Mexico  
O6—South Florida  
O20—Wyoming  
O27—at Colorado State  
N3—at UNLV  
N10—San Diego St.  
N17—BYU

**Offensive philosophy:** Gone is the one-back set in favor of a Pac-10-style power running game. That better fits the personality of new offen-

sive coordinator Craig Ver Steeg, who was Illinois' quarterbacks coach.

**Offensive stars:** There may be plenty of standouts at running back, with Dameon Hunter, J.R. Peroulis and Adam Tate. The Utes also should be able to count on WRs Daniel Jones and Cliff Russell, linemen Jordan Gross and Doug Kaufusi and TE Michael Richardson.

**Offensive concerns:** If Tate isn't eligible, that will be a major loss. The Utes will also have a difficult time finding a playmaker like departed WR Steve Smith, and there isn't much experience at quarterback.

**Defensive philosophy:** Utah's defense gives up yards but not many points. The Utes wait for opponents to make mistakes. They will blitz more often, but not to the extreme.

**Defensive stars:** Jason Kaufusi and Garrett Smith are part of an outstanding line. High expectations also follow LB Sheldon Deckart.

**Defensive concerns:** There were big losses at linebacker and in the secondary. Cornerback is a particular worry. Yohance Scott needs to improve his play, and Bo Nagahi must come through after redshirting.

**Special teams:** The best that can be said about last season is it's over. Utah was 1-of-11 on field-goal attempts at one point and couldn't seem to get the proper number of players on the field. The kicking game will improve. It has to.

**Coaching staff:** Four assistant coaches are gone, one of whom was fired. Ver Steeg comes in with high hopes to put life into the offense. Coach Ron McBride needs it as he tries to save his job after the team underperformed and was dogged by off-field problems.

**Bottom line:** Utah's season fell apart early last year after starting with high hopes. At least the Utes won't have to operate under such expectations this season. Success would be finishing in the upper division.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Josh Lyman	6-0	194	Jr.
T	Doug Kaufusi	6-6	308	Sr.
G	Ed Ta'amu	6-1	308	Sr.
C	Steve McKane	6-0	295	Sr.
G	Sam White	6-3	298	Sr.
T	Jordan Gross	6-6	303	Jr.
TE	Michael Richardson	6-2	266	Sr.
TE	Scott Price	6-4	252	Sr.
WR	Cliff Russell	5-11	180	Sr.
QB	Lance Rice	6-1	200	So.
HB	Adam Tate	6-1	230	Sr.

### Defense

E	Jason Kaufusi	6-3	308	Sr.
T	Garrett Smith	6-3	276	Jr.
NG	Lauvale Sape	6-2	270	Sr.
E	Ma'ake Kemoeatu	6-5	305	Sr.
OLB	Sheldon Deckart	6-2	242	Jr.
MLB	CR Dwinell	6-0	232	Sr.
SLB	Brooks Bahr	6-3	225	Jr.
CB	Yohance Scott	6-0	185	Sr.
NB	Bo Nagahi	5-10	178	Fr.*
FS	Anthony White	5-9	201	So.
CB	Airabin Justin	5-10	181	Jr.

### Special Teams

K	Ryan Kaneshiro	5-9	194	Sr.
P	Golden Whetman	6-0	190	Sr.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*



# 8 Wyoming

**National Rank**  
**104**

**Coach:** Vic Koenning  
(1-10, 1 year)  
**2000 record:** 1-10;  
Mountain West: 0-7/8th  
**Site:** Laramie, Wyo.  
**Stadium:** War Memorial  
(grass, 33,500)  
**Last league title won:**  
1993 (tie, WAC)  
**Website:**  
www.wyomingathletics.com

## Schedule

S1—Furman  
S6—Texas A&M  
S15—at Kansas  
S22—at Utah State  
S29—Colorado State  
O6—New Mexico  
O13—at Air Force  
O20—at Utah  
O27—UNLV  
N10—BYU  
N17—at San Diego St.

**Offensive philosophy:** Wyoming plans to stick with a multiple offense, but the Cowboys need to execute better. Expect to see the one- and two-back

offense and a shotgun.

**Offensive stars:** RB Nate Scott showed last season he has plenty of talent, but he also clashed with coaches. Indications are those problems are being resolved. The Cowboys also might have quality receivers in Brock Vines, Malcom Floyd and Ryan McGuffey, who had a huge spring.

**Offensive concerns:** A quarterback must be found, and it comes down to Matt Swanson or Casey Bramlet. Swanson has started in the past but never was consistent, so there is plenty of uncertainty at that position.

**Defensive philosophy:** While the Cowboys appear to play a 3-4, it's not a strict 3-4. They employ a defender who switches between end and outside linebacker to keep the offense guessing.

**Defensive stars:** The running back experiment is over. Former all-conference S Al Rich is back at that position after a wrist injury ended his 2000 season early. He was given an extra year of eligibility, a big boost for the Cowboys.

**Defensive concerns:** Injuries pummeled both sides of the ball and could do serious damage again, particularly on the defensive side. Also, Wyoming may have difficulty defending the pass because there are plenty of questions regarding the secondary.

**Special teams:** If Swanson doesn't win the quarterback job, he may find himself as the punter. Freshman Scott Parker also is up for the position. Jarvis Wallum should step in at kicker, and his competition against Aaron Elling last season could help.

**Coaching staff:** Vic Koenning's first season was hardly ideal, but even after going 1-10 he has some time before facing the heat. Three of his assistants moved on, including assistant head coach Jim Pletcher to Cornell.

**Bottom line:** Last season was a disaster. This season could be better, but probably not much. Wyoming's task will be to stay out of the cellar.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Brock Ralph</b>	6-3	182	Jr.
T	<b>Adam Goldberg</b>	6-7	315	Jr.
G	Rano Sasa	6-2	310	So.
C	<b>Mike Irvin</b>	6-3	280	Jr.
G	Henry Randle	6-3	281	So.
T	<b>Rob Kellerman</b>	6-6	291	Jr.
TE	Kolby Drube	6-3	220	So.
WR	<b>Ryan McGuffey</b>	6-1	196	So.
QB	Casey Bramlet	6-4	203	So.
FB	<b>Darth Tesinsky</b>	6-0	238	Sr.
RB	Nate Scott	6-1	193	Sr.

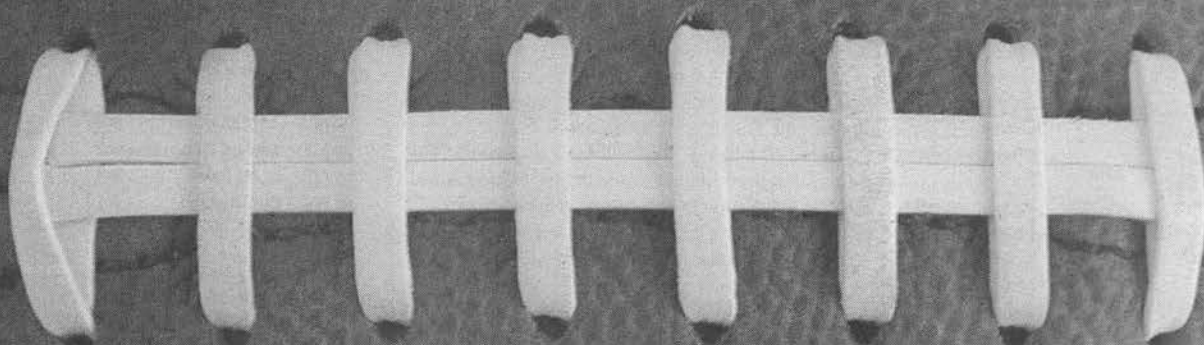
### Defense

E	Tim Glynn	6-4	240	Sr.
E	<b>Brandon Casavan</b>	6-5	254	Jr.
T	Damon Roark	6-3	280	Sr.
NG	Chad Beuhler	6-2	257	Jr.
LB	Matt Klotz	6-1	212	Sr.
LB	Jason Jones	5-11	212	Sr.
LB	<b>Leo Caires</b>	6-1	218	Sr.
CB	<b>Eric Lee</b>	5-11	175	Sr.
SS	<b>Lamar James</b>	6-0	202	Sr.
FS	<b>Al Rich</b>	5-11	200	Sr.
CB	<b>DaShawn Abram</b>	6-4	203	Sr.

### Special Teams

K	Jarvis Wallum	5-11	195	So.
P	Luke Donovan	6-0	185	So.

*Returning starters in bold*



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# Mid-American

## Marshall shows it's still the sheriff in this corner of the football world

By DOUG ZALESKI

**M**arshall's football program has been the standard by which the 12 other teams in the Mid-American Conference measure themselves. The gap is closing, but no one has figured out how to move past the Thundering Herd.

Marshall rejoined the MAC in 1997. It has won four straight conference titles and grabbed the automatic bid to the Motor City Bowl each year, winning the last three bowl games. Last year could have been the season when another team got over the hump while Marshall was retooling.

Western Michigan and Toledo figured to have the best chance after beating the Herd by a combined 72-10 in successive games during the middle of the season. But Marshall avenged a 30-10 thumping by Western Michigan by beating the Broncos 19-14 in the championship game.

Marshall has some untested players who must prove themselves this season, but it has the best quarterback in the conference in Byron Leftwich. The Herd continues to be the team to beat until another one proves it can get the job done in a championship setting.

**Ascending:** Ohio has been on the fringe of the East Division title race the last four seasons. If Marshall slips, the Bobcats might finally break through.

**Descending:** Akron thought it could beat Marshall and win the MAC championship last year but came up short. The Zips lost several playmakers, and they appear to be hovering between the top part of the East and the middle of the pack.

**Dream schedule:** Marshall doesn't face West title threats Toledo and Western Michigan, and the Thundering Herd's MAC road games are against Northern Illinois, Buffalo, Kent State and Miami. Those teams were a combined 7-8 in home conference games last year.

**Nightmare schedule:** Akron has a huge challenge with non-conference road games against Ohio State and Purdue, and the MAC season offers little relief with road games against Western Michigan, Miami and Marshall.

**Best matchup:** Western Michigan at Toledo on November 6. The Tuesday night game on ESPN could decide the West Division championship between the teams that have won the West every year since 1997.

**Ugliest matchup:** Bowling Green at South Carolina on September 15. The Falcons' program is unstable after a coaching change, and the Gamecocks are surging.

**Upset of the year:** Northern Illinois over

Western Michigan on October 20. The Huskies were kicking themselves after a poor performance against the Broncos last season and a near-miss in 1999. This year's game is at Northern, and the Huskies are primed to make amends.

**Bowl bound:** Marshall has won the MAC's automatic berth in the Motor City Bowl each of the last four years. There's no reason to count out the Thundering Herd this season.

**Biggest shoes to fill:** RB Robert Sanford left Western Michigan last season as the leading rusher in school history. Charles Woods has the inside track on the job, but he has never played as the featured back for the Broncos.

**Most overrated:** Ohio running back Wiz White was a ballyhooed recruit out of high school in 1999. He hasn't found a niche on the field, and disciplinary measures taken in the spring by coach Brian Knorr for academic shortcomings could keep him off the team in the fall.

**Most underrated:** Akron receiver Jake Schifino is primed for a big season after playing in the shadow of Lavel Bailey the last three seasons. Schifino has tremendous athletic ability, and at 6-1, 205 pounds, he is a load for the MAC's small cornerbacks.

**Best coaching staff:** This honor goes to Bob Pruett and Marshall until somebody figures out how to beat them.

**Coach on the hot seat:** Ball State's Bill Lynch was given a one-year extension late last fall on a contract that was scheduled to run out this year. It's obvious the school's administration wants to see more progress before offering a stronger commitment.

**Best bets:** The winner of the Toledo-Western Michigan game most likely will claim the West Division title and advance to the MAC championship. The winner of that game has won the West title three of the past four seasons. ... Marshall's Pruett will talk ad nauseam early in the season about his team's deficiencies, yet it'll end up in the MAC championship for the fifth straight season. ... Toledo is promoting TB Chester Taylor as a Heisman Trophy candidate. But if the Rockets play him as a slot receiver in their new spread offense as much as they have hinted, he won't get the rushing numbers to impress voters.

**Odds and ends:** Bowling Green this summer became the ninth MAC school to put permanent lights on its field, spending \$1.1 million. ... Ohio lowered the playing field at Peden Stadium so it could add 5,000 more seats, bringing capacity to 25,000. ... Western Michigan studied the merits of re-installing an artificial surface at Waldo Stadium. The playing field has been resodded three of the last four years.



CRAIG MELVIN FOR TSN

**WINNING TRADITION:** Pruett has only nine losses in five seasons as Marshall's coach.

## ALL-LEAGUE

### Offense

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	David Bautista, Bowling Green	6-0	180	Sr.
WR	Kenny Christian, E. Michigan	6-1	198	Sr.
TE	Mobolaji Afariogun, W. Michigan	6-4	230	Jr.
T	Konrad Dean, Akron	6-4	297	Sr.
T	Matt Stover, W. Michigan	6-4	279	Sr.
G	Nick Glowacki, Ohio	6-5	312	Sr.
G	Brian Hallett, Kent State	6-4	295	Sr.
C	Nick Otterbacher, Toledo	6-1	280	Sr.
QB	Byron Leftwich, Marshall	6-6	240	Jr.
RB	Chester Taylor, Toledo	5-10	205	Sr.
RB	Thomas Hammock, N. Illinois	5-10	218	Jr.

### Defense

E	Anthony Allsbury, W. Michigan	6-2	250	Jr.
E	Ralph Street, Marshall	6-0	255	Sr.
T	Ryan Terry, Miami	6-2	315	Jr.
LB	Max Yates, Marshall	6-3	228	Sr.
LB	Matt Weikert, Ohio	6-1	225	Sr.
LB	Duane Williams, Buffalo	6-2	240	Sr.
LB	Larry Williams, N. Illinois	6-0	236	Jr.
CB	Ronald Rogers, W. Michigan	5-8	170	Sr.
CB	Bop White, Ohio	6-0	175	Jr.
S	Jade Winchell, Ball State	5-10	196	Jr.
S	Jermaine Lewis, W. Michigan	6-4	198	Jr.

### Specialists

K	Todd France, Toledo	6-3	185	Sr.
P	Dave Zastudil, Ohio	6-3	230	Sr.
KR	Josh Bush, W. Michigan	5-9	155	Sr.

### Players of the year

**Offense:** Chester Taylor, RB, Toledo

**Defense:** Max Yates, LB, Marshall

### Newcomers of the year

**Offense:** Kendrick Starling, WR, Marshall

**Defense:** Brendon Banks, SS, Akron



# 1 Marshall

**Offensive philosophy:** Marshall is one of the few teams in the MAC that doesn't mind engaging in an offensive shootout. The Thundering Herd enjoys playing up-tempo offense—in a controlled way. It likes to loosen up defenses with a short- to medium-range passing game, which creates seams for receivers and rushers. Coach Bob Pruett thinks this year's offense could be Marshall's most explosive yet. That would be no small accomplishment considering the 1999 team amassed 551.3 yards per game in posting a 13-0 record.

**Offensive stars:** Pruett thinks quarterback Byron Leftwich is a Heisman Trophy candidate. In fact, he calls Leftwich the best quarterback in college football and, potentially, the best at the position in the history of the MAC. That's saying something in light of the fact former Marshall QB Chad Pennington was a Heisman finalist in 1999 and an NFL first-round draft pick. Tackles Steve Sciuillo and Nate McPeck are good building blocks for the offensive line.

**Offensive concerns:** The Herd lost its top four receivers from last season—a group that combined to catch 200 passes for 2,356 yards and 14 touchdowns. The replacements are talented but mostly unproven. Darius Watts is the top returnee. He caught 36 passes a year ago and had a team-leading six touchdown grabs. Little-known Josh Davis had an excellent spring, and Kendrick Starling was a junior-college All-American last year. Marshall needs more production out of a running game that last year ranked ninth in the MAC with just 113.5 yards per game. The Herd could get a big boost from RB Chanston Rodgers, who was limited last season by an ACL tear suffered the previous spring. Fellow RB Brandon Carey, who also struggled with injuries a year ago, must become a factor in the running game.

**Defensive philosophy:** Marshall is changing from a read-and-react defense to one that plays with a more aggressive, attacking style. The goal is to put more pressure on opposing quarterbacks and try to force them into unsettling situations. The scheme is a bit risky, but Marshall is willing to live with the possibility of giving up some big plays because it knows it has the personnel to create big plays of its own. The defensive line will feature a lot of movement to make up for a lack of size. The Herd unveiled parts of the new defense against Western Michigan in last year's MAC championship game victory.

**Defensive stars:** Max Yates at middle linebacker and Alonzo Jones at the weakside linebacker position give the Herd two strong players in the middle of the defense. Yates is a sound tackler against the run and can defend the pass. Jones had an outstanding spring after spending much of 2000 in the doghouse of defensive coordinator Kevin Kelly. FS Chris Crocker can play all four positions in the secondary.

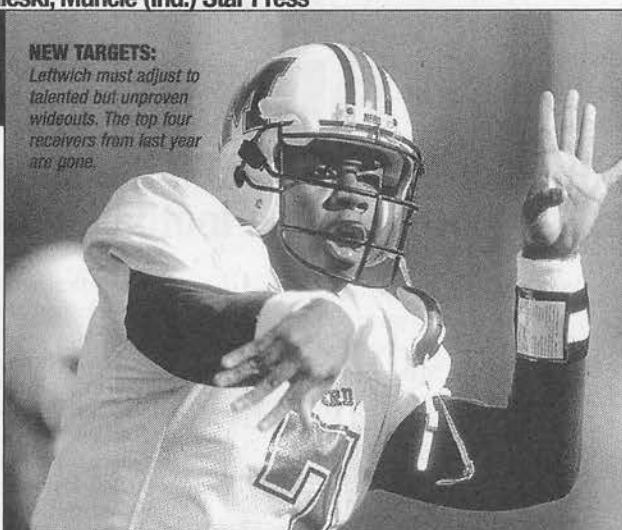
**Defensive concerns:** The ends are key positions for the Marshall defense. Ralph Street was effective a year ago with eight sacks, but Kelvin Smith must come on this season on the other side to provide balance in his first action as a starter. He showed flashes last year with four of his 15 tackles going for a loss. Yancey Satterwhite and Terence Tarpley will be starters for the first time at cornerback. With the new aggressive defense the Herd intends to play, the corners will be left in a lot of man coverage. Kelly believes Satterwhite and Tarpley can handle that, but they must prove it when the lights are on.

**Special teams:** Curtis Head was a capable punter a year ago, and he might add placekicking to his duties this year if incoming freshman Sam Erny doesn't take over in fall camp.

**Coaching staff:** Pruett didn't win his third straight Coach of the Year award in the MAC last year, but maybe he should have. Pruett and his coaching staff rescued the Herd from the depths of despair. After losing to Toledo and Western Michigan by a combined 72-10 at midseason, the Herd regrouped. It won five of its next six games, including the MAC championship, and then defeated Cincinnati in the Motor City Bowl.

**Bottom line:** Marshall remains at the head of the MAC until another team can prove otherwise. The Herd has won four straight championships since rejoining the conference in 1997.

**NEW TARGETS:** Leftwich must adjust to talented but unproven wideouts. The top four receivers from last year are gone.



CRAIG MELVIN FOR TSN

## National Rank 40

**Coach:** Bob Pruett (58-9, 5 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Ed Zaunbrecher (2nd season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Kevin Kelly (5th season)

**Offensive scheme:** Multiple

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 14

**Lettermen lost:** 22

**Lettermen returning:** 37

**Site:** Huntington, W.Va.

**Stadium:** Marshall Stadium (turf, 38,000)

**Last league title won:** 2000

**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1997

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 50

**2000 record:** 8-5 (beat Cincinnati in Motor City Bowl); MAC East: 6-3/T1st

**Website:** www.herdzone.com

## 2000 Results

SE Missouri State, W, 63-7  
at Michigan State, L, 24-34  
at North Carolina, L, 15-20  
Buffalo, W, 47-14

Western Michigan, L, 10-30

at Toledo, L, 0-42

Kent State, W, 34-12

at Akron, W, 31-28

at Bowling Green, W, 20-13

Miami (Ohio), W, 51-31

at Ohio, L, 28-38

vs. W. Michigan, W, 19-14

Cincinnati, W, 25-14

## Schedule

S1—at Florida

S8—Massachusetts

S15—at TCU

S29—Bowling Green

O6—at N. Illinois

O13—at Buffalo

O20—Central Michigan

O27—Akron

N3—at Kent State

N10—at Miami (Ohio)

N17—Ohio

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Darius Watts	6-2	177	So.
	Chris Ray	5-11	186	Jr.
T	Steve Sciuillo	6-5	325	Jr.
	Matt Zahn	6-7	375	So.
G	Steve Content	6-2	265	Sr.
	Joey Stepp	6-1	299	So.
C	Jeff Edwards	6-4	275	Jr.
	Doug Gast	6-5	259	Fr.*
G	Steven Perretta	6-2	285	Jr.
	Paul Hardy	6-4	298	Jr.
T	Nate McPeck	6-4	313	So.
	Joe Orsini	6-7	332	Jr.
TE	Gregg Kellett	6-3	256	Sr.
	Eddie Smolder	6-3	238	Jr.
WR	Brad Bates	5-10	162	Fr.*
	Chris Martin	5-8	177	So.
QB	Byron Leftwich	6-6	240	Jr.
	Stan Hill	6-3	190	Fr.*
RB	Franklin Wallace	5-11	192	So.
	Brandon Carey	5-10	185	Jr.
WR	Curtis Jones	6-2	195	Jr.
	Josh Davis	6-0	191	Fr.*

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Ralph Street	6-0	255	Sr.
	Maurice McKinney	6-2	210	So.
T	Orlando Washington	6-2	255	Jr.
	Richard Rodgers	6-4	277	Jr.
NT	Marlan Hicks	6-3	295	So.
	Nathan Leslie	6-4	250	So.
E	Kelvin Smith	6-1	239	Sr.
	Paul Sinclair	6-0	250	So.
OLB	Alonzo Jones	6-0	201	Sr.
	Sam Goines	6-0	201	Sr.
MLB	Max Yates	6-3	228	Sr.
	Duran Smith	6-0	224	Jr.
OLB	Larry Davis	6-0	190	Sr.
	Charles Tynes	6-0	194	So.
CB	Terence Tarpley	5-10	174	Jr.
	Dorian Williams	5-7	154	Fr.*
SS	Michael Owens	5-10	210	Sr.
	Gladstone Coke	5-8	183	So.
FS	Chris Crocker	5-11	183	Jr.
	Fardan Carter	5-9	183	Sr.
CB	Yancey Satterwhite	5-11	175	Jr.
	Renaldo Williams	5-8	184	Fr.*

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Curtis Head	5-11	184	Jr.
P	Curtis Head	5-11	184	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 2 Ohio

## National Rank 65

**Coach:** Brian Knorr (1st season)  
**2000 record:** 7-4; MAC East: 5-3/T2nd  
**Site:** Athens, Ohio  
**Stadium:** Peden (grass, 25,000)  
**Last league title won:** 1968  
**Website:** www.ohiobobcats.com

### Schedule

S1—at NC State  
 S8—at West Virginia  
 S22—Iowa State  
 S29—at Akron  
 O6—Toledo  
 O13—at C. Michigan  
 O20—Miami (Ohio)  
 O27—Kent State  
 N3—at Buffalo  
 N10—Bowling Green  
 N17—at Marshall

**Offensive philosophy:** There's always some tweaking of the system with a new coaching regime, but Ohio will stay with the same triple-option

offense under Brian Knorr that it has used the past six seasons  
**Offensive stars:** QB Dontrell Jackson does an excellent job of operating the Bobcats' high-risk option offense. He's an effective runner and still is trying to refine his passing skills. Chad Brinker and Jamel Patterson are capable running backs who combined for 1,400 yards last year.

**Offensive concerns:** The Bobcats have tried hard the past few seasons to improve their passing attack, but that part of the game can be very difficult for an option team.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Bobcats run the 50 defense, which is an attacking, movement-oriented alignment. The movement up front is meant to disguise the defense. Small, quick athletes up front attack at angles.

**Defensive stars:** LBs Tom Weibacher (the team's top tackler last year) and Matt Weikert form a strong combo. Weikert gave the defense a playmaker with 16 tackles for loss, including six sacks.

**Defensive concerns:** Ohio has good individual talent in the secondary, but it must become better at protecting against big plays. The Bobcats yielded five touchdown passes that covered between 37 and 65 yards last season.

**Special teams:** Dave Zastudil, with a career average of 44.2, is one of the best punters in MAC history. Kevin Kerr was one of the MAC's most accurate kickers last season, making 12 of 17 field goals.

**Coaching staff:** Knorr was promoted to head coach after Jim Grobe left to become coach at Wake Forest. Knorr was the Bobcats' defensive coordinator the past two seasons. He hired Greg Gregory, known for his work with option football, as offensive coordinator to keep Ohio's option in place.

**Bottom line:** If Ohio can continue to make improvements on offense, especially with consistency in the passing game, it could win the East if Marshall slips up. The Bobcats have 17 starters returning this year from a team that beat Marshall 38-28 last season.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Joe Mohler	6-3	200	Jr.
T	Chris Jackson	6-3	280	Jr.
G	Nick Glowacki	6-5	312	Sr.
C	Taylor Ketchum	6-2	295	Sr.
G	Dave Patton	6-9	320	Sr.
T	Erik Grahovac	6-3	278	Jr.
TE	Chris Knaack	6-3	253	Sr.
WR	Stafford Owens	5-8	180	Fr.*
QB	Dontrell Jackson	5-10	170	Jr.
FB	Joe Sherrill	6-0	230	Jr.
RB	Jamel Patterson	6-1	200	Sr.

### Defense

E	Keith Adamson	6-2	255	So.
T	Lamar Martin	6-1	286	Jr.
E	Mike Fox	6-4	264	Sr.
OLB	Greg Baskin	6-1	238	Sr.
ILB	Matt Weikert	6-1	225	Sr.
ILB	Shawn Murphy	6-1	220	Sr.
OLB	Tom Weibacher	6-0	230	Jr.
CB	Bop White	6-0	175	Jr.
SS	Chris London	5-10	200	Sr.
FS	Joe Sellers	5-10	190	Jr.
CB	Arden Banks	5-9	195	Sr.

### Special Teams

K	Kevin Kerr	6-0	176	Jr.
P	Dave Zastudil	6-3	230	Sr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

# 3 Akron

## National Rank 72

**Coach:** Lee Owens (25-41, 6 years)  
**2000 record:** 6-5; MAC East: 5-1/T1st  
**Site:** Akron, Ohio  
**Stadium:** Rubber Bowl (turf, 35,202)  
**Last league title won:** None  
**Website:** www.goazips.com

### Schedule

S8—at Ohio State  
 S15—Eastern Michigan  
 S22—at Purdue  
 S29—Ohio  
 O6—at W. Michigan  
 O13—at Miami  
 O20—Bowling Green  
 O27—at Marshall  
 N3—at Central Florida  
 N10—at Buffalo  
 N17—Kent State

**Offensive philosophy:** Akron, which likes to play power football out of the Offset-I, has had dominant run blockers the past few seasons. The

Zips like to move their athletic quarterbacks around in the passing game.

**Offensive stars:** Brandon Payne is a quality tailback who can run and catch the ball, and he has been one of the MAC's top punt returners the past two seasons. WR Jake Schifino is one of this league's hidden talents. TE Tim Ritley has excellent hands, and his blocking has improved. T Konrad Dean has great size and mobility.

**Offensive concerns:** The Zips must replace multi-threat QB Butchie Washington. Nick Sparks, an athletic transfer from West Virginia, holds a slight edge over Ryan Uhlenhake for the starting position. There is no proven receiver opposite Schifino.

**Defensive philosophy:** Under new coordinator Bob Morris, Akron will play a Flex 50 scheme. The Zips will have more flexibility with their base defense and use different fronts. That will allow them to play more coverages and put in better blitz packages.

**Defensive stars:** E Dwayne Lefall could become a dominant pass rusher in the mold of former Zip Jason Taylor. LB Ed March showed signs the past two seasons of becoming an impact player.

**Defensive concerns:** The Zips must find an outside linebacker to replace Lou Mackey, who was second on the team in tackles. Brad Detwiler started much of the past two seasons at strong safety, but Marcus Suber and Brendon Banks will push him for the job.

**Special teams:** K Zac Derr is closing in on 200 career points and becoming the program's third all-time leading scorer. P Andy Jerdon helped the Zips rank third in the MAC in net punting last season.

**Coaching staff:** The only change is the promotion of Morris from the coordinator of pass defense to defensive coordinator.

**Bottom line:** Akron is 9-2 against MAC East teams the past two seasons, having lost to Miami (Ohio) in 1999 and Marshall in 2000. The Zips could be a factor in the East but must find a way to win a big game.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jake Schifino	6-1	205	Sr.
T	Konrad Dean	6-4	297	Sr.
G	Bryan Shaw	6-3	304	So.
C	Scott Smith	6-3	275	Sr.
G	Paul Ondrusek	6-2	309	Sr.
T	Jeff Grzeskowiak	6-5	309	Sr.
TE	Tim Ritley	6-3	243	Sr.
WR	Matt Cherry	6-2	184	So.
QB	Nick Sparks	6-3	206	So.
FB	Matt Zuercher	6-0	241	Sr.
RB	Brandon Payne	5-10	197	Jr.

### Defense

E	Ryan Gargas	6-5	250	Jr.
E	Dwayne Lefall	6-3	248	So.
T	Chris Smith	6-3	280	Sr.
T	Ryan Schulz	6-4	250	Jr.
LB	Ed March	5-11	223	Sr.
LB	Terrell Colbert	6-2	237	Sr.
OLB	Mike Young	5-8	186	Sr.
CB	Maurice Taylor	5-11	179	So.
SS	Brad Detwiler	5-9	192	Sr.
FS	Kris Williams	5-11	178	Jr.
CB	Corvin Amos	5-9	187	Jr.

### Special Teams

K	Zac Derr	5-8	155	Sr.
P	Andy Jerdon	5-11	199	So.

Returning starters in bold



# 4 Miami

## National Rank 79

**Coach:** Terry Hooppner  
(13-9, 2 years)  
**2000 record:** 6-5; MAC  
East: 5-3/T3rd  
**Site:** Oxford, Ohio  
**Stadium:** Yager Stadium  
(grass, 30,012)  
**Last league title won:**  
1986  
**Website:**  
www.muredhawks.com

### Schedule

S1—at Michigan  
S8—at Iowa  
S15—at Kent State  
S22—Cincinnati  
S29—at Ball State  
O6—Buffalo  
O13—Akron  
O20—at Ohio  
O27—Western Michigan  
N3—at Bowling Green  
N10—Marshall  
N17—at Hawaii

**Offensive philosophy:** Coach Terry Hooppner has dubbed his attack the Mid-West Coast offense. Miami has incorporated more passing into its

system, though it still wants to be known as a strong running team.

**Offensive stars:** Miami will be breaking in an inexperienced quarterback, so it will help this season that four of five starters on the line are back. The strength is in the middle with C Paul Thaler and G Phil Hawk.

RB Steve Little gained 986 yards last year despite being hobbled. He and Cal Murray should be a very productive tandem.

**Offensive concerns:** The quarterbacking duties will be handled by one of two redshirt freshmen: Ben Roethlisberger or Ryan Hawk.

**Defensive philosophy:** The RedHawks' perimeter players are active and aggressive, and their safeties are heavily involved in the scheme. Production dropped the past two seasons, prompting coaches to find ways during the offseason to simplify things.

**Defensive stars:** LB Terrell Jones was a pleasant surprise last year. Injuries to other players forced Jones into the lineup in the fourth game, and he led all freshmen nationally with 11.8 tackles per game. Matt Robillard is a great tackler with the versatility to play linebacker or strong safety.

**Defensive concerns:** The RedHawks still are trying to find a position for talented Phil Smith. He started as an end, moved to linebacker last year and is going back to end this year. Milt Bowen might be switched from from cornerback to safety. He has the potential to be a top-flight player at either spot. The secondary might be the team's most inexperienced area.

**Special teams:** The top goal is to find a punter. K Andy Brumbergs and walk-on Michael Wafzig likely are the candidates. Brumbergs must become more consistent on field goals.

**Coaching staff:** Hooppner remains very involved with the defense. Former NC State QB Shane Montgomery is the new offensive coordinator.

**Bottom line:** Miami is counting on a number of unheralded but talented players to make their mark at key positions, notably at quarterback, linebacker and in the secondary. If that happens, the RedHawks can contend for a high finish in the East. If not, they'll slip into the middle of the pack.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jason Branch	6-6	218	Jr.
T	Ben Herrell	6-7	270	So.
G	Justin Smith	6-5	291	Jr.
C	<b>Paul Thaler</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
G	<b>Phil Hawk</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
T	<b>Jacob Bell</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>So.</b>
TE	Robert Frazier	6-4	253	Sr.
WR	Randy Stegman	5-10	187	Jr.
WR	Chauncey Henry	6-1	202	Jr.
QB	Ben Roethlisberger	6-5	210	Fr.*
RB	<b>Steve Little</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>Sr.</b>

### Defense

E	<b>Bob Petrovic</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
E	Phil Smith	6-1	258	So.
T	G. DiGiandomenico	6-4	282	Sr.
T	<b>Ryan Terry</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
OLB	<b>Matt Robillard</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
MLB	<b>Terrell Jones</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>So.</b>
OLB	Nate Clayton	6-2	229	So.
CB	<b>Milt Bowen</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
SS	Rod Clark	5-8	192	Sr.
FS	Matt Pusateri	5-11	190	Fr.*
CB	Michael Adams	5-8	186	Sr.

### Special Teams

K	<b>Andy Brumbergs</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
P	Michael Wafzig	6-4	200	Fr.*

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

# 5 Bowling Green

## National Rank 101

**Coach:** Urban Meyer  
(first season)  
**2000 record:** 2-9; MAC  
East: 2-6/5th  
**Site:** Bowling Green,  
Ohio  
**Stadium:** Doyt Perry  
Stadium (grass, 30,599)  
**Last league title won:**  
1992  
**Website:**  
www.bgsufalcons.com

### Schedule

S1—at Missouri  
S8—Buffalo  
S15—at South Carolina  
S22—Temple  
S29—at Marshall  
O6—Kent State  
O13—at W. Michigan  
O20—at Akron  
N3—Miami (Ohio)  
N10—Ohio  
N23—Toledo

**Offensive philosophy:** Bowling Green will switch from the two-tight-end offense it used under Gary Blackney to a spread formation under new

coach Urban Meyer, utilizing one running back with three wideouts.

**Offensive stars:** WR David Bautista was the team offensive MVP last year after ranking second in the MAC with 69 catches for 915 yards. The Falcons have some building blocks in the line with T Malcolm Robinson and G Jon Mazur; both started every game last season. QB Andy Sahn has been steady but not spectacular as a two-year starter.

**Offensive concerns:** Kurt Gerling, who teamed with Bautista last year in a good 1-2 receiving combo, tore an ACL during spring practice and might miss the entire season. The Falcons need more production out of their running game after ranking 11th in the MAC in rushing last year.

**Defensive philosophy:** Bowling Green will switch to a 4-3 and try to attack more. Meyer thinks the Falcons need more sideline-to-sideline pursuit.

**Defensive stars:** Brandon Hicks is a bullish nose tackle with a knack for making plays behind the line of scrimmage. OLB Khary Campbell, one of the team's strongest and most athletic players, led the Falcons in tackles last year. SS Chad Long is versatile enough to play free safety.

**Defensive concerns:** Bowling Green must find a way to keep Hicks from being double-teamed. It's a must to find somebody who can replace the production—particularly in the pass rush—and the leadership of graduated E D.J. Durkin. The Falcons must shore up their pass defense.

**Special teams:** P Pat Fleming helped the Falcons finish third in the MAC in net punting (35.4) last season. Incoming freshman K Nate Fry made two 48-yard field goals in high school.

**Coaching staff:** Bowling Green thinks it got one of the top coaching prospects in the country when it hired Meyer. He helped develop and install Notre Dame's passing offense.

**Bottom line:** Bowling Green likely is headed for a second-division finish in the East but might not be as far from competing with the top teams. The Falcons led in the fourth quarter of every game against East opponents last season.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Kurt Gerling</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
T	Dennis Wendel	6-7	303	Jr.
G	Andrew Hart	6-4	270	Fr.*
C	<b>Jon Mazur</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
G	<b>Greg Kupke</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
T	<b>Malcolm Robinson</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
TE	Jason Van Dam	6-6	260	So.
WR	<b>David Bautista</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
QB	<b>Andy Sahn</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
RB	<b>John Gibson</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
FB	Robert Redd	5-10	195	Jr.

### Defense

E	<b>Chris Glantzis</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
E	<b>Ryan Wingrove</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
T	<b>D.J. Owchar</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
NT	<b>Brandon Hicks</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
ILB	<b>Khary Campbell</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
ILB	Chris Haneline	6-1	215	Jr.
OLB	<b>Garry Fisher</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
CB	<b>Janssen Patton</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>So.</b>
SS	<b>Chad Long</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
FS	<b>Sergio Lund</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
CB	Michael Malone	5-10	180	So.

### Special Teams

K	Pat Fleming	6-2	190	Jr.
P	<b>Pat Fleming</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 6 Kent State

**National Rank**  
**109**

**Coach:** Dean Pees  
(3-30, 3 years)

**2000 record:** 1-10;  
MAC East: 1-7/7th

**Site:** Kent, Ohio

**Stadium:** Dix Stadium  
(turf, 30,520)

**Last league title won:**  
1972

**Website:**

www.kent.edu/athletics

## Schedule

S1—at Iowa  
S8—Bucknell  
S15—Miami (Oh.)  
S22—at West Virginia  
O6—at Bowling Green  
O13—Northern Illinois  
O20—Buffalo  
O27—at Ohio  
N3—Marshall  
N10—at Ball State  
N17—at Akron

**Offensive philosophy:** Kent State threw the ball a lot the past three seasons, often because it trailed early in games. Some option football will

spice the attack this year, along with a short passing game.

**Offensive stars:** TB Chante Murphy had 800 yards rushing last year, giving him 1,531 for his career. G Brian Hallett is a three-year starter with outstanding strength and work habits.

**Offensive concerns:** Kent State will have a new starting quarterback. Jeff Valentino, who played in eight games last year, was No. 1 in the spring, but sophomore Ben McDaniels and incoming freshman Joshua Cribbs will contend for the job. Undersized Jurron Kelly averaged 35 catches the past three seasons.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Golden Flashes showed signs last season of becoming better at defending the run, allowing 3.7 yards per rush and 164.4 per game. They'll try to funnel plays to their active linebackers.

**Defensive stars:** The linebackers are the strength. James Harrison and Rashan Hall combined to make 201 tackles last year. Joining them will be Anthony Henriquez and Pierre Wilson, the latter a transfer from Michigan State. One should start, and the other will provide good depth.

**Defensive concerns:** A case could be made that the Golden Flashes had the worst pass defense in the MAC last season. They allowed 244.1 yards per game through the air and 8.1 yards per completion. Kent State's six interceptions tied for the lowest total in the conference. Part of the problem was a poor pass rush. The Flashes had only 19 sacks.

**Special teams:** K Dave Pavich was hampered last season after having part of a lung removed. P Jared Fritz increased his average almost 4 yards to 40.4 last season.

**Coaching staff:** Dean Pees, who signed an extension in the offseason, enters his third season as coach. Mike Drake was promoted to offensive coordinator. He'll try to upgrade the short passing game.

**Bottom line:** Kent State made some progress last season, even though it wasn't reflected in its record. Making enough this year to take a jump in the standings will be tough.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Matt Curry	6-0	180	Sr.
T	Joel Reikowski	6-5	255	Jr.
G	Victor Vrabel	6-4	300	Sr.
C	Steve Smith	6-4	265	So.
G	Brian Hallett	6-4	295	Sr.
T	Kevin Jamieson	6-4	295	Jr.
TE	Neil Buckosh	6-3	245	So.
WR	Jurron Kelly	6-0	170	Sr.
QB	Ben McDaniels	6-0	175	So.
RB	Booker Vann	5-11	210	Jr.
FB	DeMarlo Rozier	5-9	220	Sr.

### Defense

E	Shawn Armstead	6-4	225	Jr.
NG	Aaron Mayer	6-2	275	Sr.
E	Mark Strickland	6-1	250	Sr.
LB	James Harrison	6-1	235	Sr.
LB	Rashan Hall	5-11	230	Sr.
LB	Anthony Henriquez	5-11	220	So.
LB	Heath Hommel	6-0	225	Sr.
CB	Jacon Avery	5-11	170	Jr.
SS	Reggie Crook	6-0	195	Sr.
FS	Robert James	6-4	200	Jr.
CB	Justin Baugham	5-10	185	Jr.

### Special Teams

K	Dave Pavich	6-1	170	Sr.
P	Jared Fritz	6-2	185	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold*

# 7 Buffalo

**National Rank**  
**112**

**Coach:** Jim Hofher (first season); 44-36 overall, 8 years)

**2000 record:** 2-9; MAC East: 2-4/4th

**Site:** Buffalo

**Stadium:** University Stadium (grass, 31,000)

**Last league title won:**  
None

**Website:**

www.ubathletics.buffalo.edu

## Schedule

A30—Rutgers  
S8—at Bowling Green  
S15—at Army  
S22—at Connecticut  
S29—Central Michigan  
O6—at Miami (Ohio)  
O13—Marshall  
O20—at Kent State  
O27—at E. Michigan  
N3—Ohio  
N10—Akron

**Offensive philosophy:** New coach Jim Hofher thinks the most difficult thing for a defensive player to do is make an open-field tackle. Thus the

Bulls, who aren't beefy up front, will try to spread the field on offense to get their receivers and ballcarriers in one-on-one matchups.

**Offensive stars:** Joe Freedy has started two years at quarterback and ranks in the top six at Buffalo in career attempts, completions, passing yards and touchdowns. WR Andre Forde had a breakout season last year.

**Offensive concerns:** The Bulls must find a running game. Albert Grundy and Marquis Dwarte are the most likely to emerge. TE Chad Bartoszek has big-play potential.

**Defensive philosophy:** Buffalo will switch to a 4-3, attacking gaps in the offense and trying to put pressure on the quarterback from the edge. Danel Singfield, the team's second-leading receiver last year, will move to free safety to take advantage of his big-play ability.

**Defensive stars:** T Bob Dzonick had good numbers last year despite being double-teamed often. He should get help from All-MAC candidate Duane Williams, a big-play specialist who is switching from outside linebacker to defensive end. CB Mark Graham didn't start until the eighth game last year, but he picked off three passes and was a sure tackler.

**Defensive concerns:** When Williams moved to end and backup Lamar Wilcher rehabbed a knee injury in the spring, it left the Bulls with a hole at linebacker. FS Craig Rohlf has All-MAC ability, but injuries diminished his production the last two seasons.

**Special teams:** Dallas Pelz enters the season as the punter and kicker. He averaged only 35.4 yards per punt last year and never has attempted a field goal or PAT in his career.

**Coaching staff:** Hofher brings something to Buffalo most new MAC coaches don't have: extended head coaching experience. Hofher was the coach for eight seasons at Cornell, from 1990-97.

**Bottom line:** Buffalo has some talent, but it still doesn't have the depth to compete with most of the teams in the MAC. The Bulls still must add a couple of years' worth of recruits.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Andre Forde	5-10	206	So.
T	Andy Avery	6-6	263	Fr.*
G	Tim Hedges	6-5	307	Jr.
C	John Nolan	6-3	270	Jr.
G	Jeff Mills	6-6	305	Fr.*
T	Matt Baniewicz	6-0	260	So.
TE	Chad Bartoszek	6-6	251	So.
WR	Zeke McKine	5-9	170	Fr.*
QB	Joe Freedy	6-2	194	Jr.
FB	Tom Shaughnessy	5-11	240	Fr.*
RB	Marquis Dwarte	5-6	165	Fr.*

### Defense

E	Chris Shelly	6-1	227	Jr.
E	Terrence Dawson	6-4	275	So.
T	Omari Jordan	6-6	316	Jr.
NT	Bob Dzonick	6-1	260	Jr.
OLB	Brandon Jordan	5-10	208	Jr.
MLB	Rodney Morris	6-0	225	Fr.*
OLB	Demetrius Austrum	6-1	226	Fr.*
CB	Mike Lambert	5-8	195	So.
SS	Youndlain Marcellus	5-9	196	So.
FS	Craig Rohlf	5-10	192	Jr.
CB	Mark Graham	6-0	184	Fr.*

### Special Teams

K	Dallas Pelz	5-11	176	So.
P	Dallas Pelz	5-11	176	So.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*



## 1 Toledo

**National Rank**  
**47**

**Coach:** Tom Amstutz (first season).

**2000 record:** 10-1;

MAC West: 6-1/2nd

**Site:** Toledo, Ohio.

**Stadium:** Glass Bowl (grass, 26,248)

**Last league title won:** 1995

**Website:** www.utrocks.com

### Schedule

A31—Minnesota  
S8—at Temple  
S15—Youngstown State  
S22—at C. Michigan  
S29—Northern Illinois  
O6—at Ohio  
O20—at Ball State  
O27—Navy  
N6—Western Michigan  
N17—Eastern Michigan  
N23—at Bowling Green

**Offensive philosophy:** New coach Tom Amstutz will open things up, using a spread offense and attacking more by using multiple formations.

**Offensive stars:** Chester Taylor has a chance to rush for 1,000 yards for the third consecutive season. Though small at 5-10, he packages power with good speed. QB Tavares Bolden is an accurate short passer and has the ability to run. He must improve his long throws.

**Offensive concerns:** Donta Greene caught 31 passes last season, but no one else on the roster had more than 15 receptions. Manny Johnson could be a key player in the group. The Rockets return eight of their top 10 offensive linemen, but they must replace two All-MAC first-team picks.

**Defensive philosophy:** After Amstutz was promoted from defensive coordinator to coach, he hired Notre Dame assistant Lou West as the Rockets' defensive coordinator. West is well-versed in the Rockets' 4-4 defense from his days at Virginia Tech.

**Defensive stars:** Brandon Hefflin and Jehu Anderson can make a claim as the top cornerback tandem in the MAC. Both are strong cover guys. Es Leo Frierson and David Bockmore are effective at putting pressure on the quarterback. There's good depth at tackle, and sophomore Chaz Williams is a talent to watch.

**Defensive concerns:** The unit's three losses—E DeJuan Goulde, LB Kevin Rollins and rover Ira Singleton—were All-MAC first-team players last year. Junior LB David Gardner is a candidate to fill some of the leadership void.

**Special teams:** Todd France is one of the most accurate kickers in the country. He made 15 of 19 field goals and all 49 extra points last year. The Rockets need more from P Brandon Hannum than his 37.9 average.

**Coaching staff:** Toledo raised eyebrows around the MAC when it hired Rob Spence as offensive coordinator and West as defensive coordinator and paid each nearly \$100,000, significantly more than the MAC average.

**Bottom line:** Toledo has everything in place to win the MAC title for the first time since 1995. With 16 starters returning from last year's 10-1 team, anything less would be a disappointment.

### PROJECTED STARTERS

#### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Carl Ford	6-1	170	Jr.
T	Archie Godfrey	6-5	281	Jr.
G	<b>Matt Comer</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
C	Chris Tuminello	6-3	282	Jr.
G	<b>Noah Swartz</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
T	Tim Dirksen	6-4	285	So.
TE	Andrew Clarke	6-4	240	Fr.*
WR	<b>Donta Greene</b>	<b>5-7</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
WR	<b>Manny Johnson</b>	<b>5-7</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
QB	<b>Tavares Bolden</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
RB	<b>Chester Taylor</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Sr.</b>

#### Defense

E	<b>Leo Frierson</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
E	<b>David Bockmore</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
T	<b>Jake McLean</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
T	Phil Gibson	6-2	295	Sr.
OLB	<b>Corey Morris</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
ILB	Tom Ward	6-1	236	Jr.
ILB	<b>David Gardner</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
OLB	Paul Dye	6-2	206	So.
CB	<b>Jehu Anderson</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
FS	<b>Andy Boyd</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
CB	<b>Brandon Hefflin</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>So.</b>

#### Special Teams

K	<b>Todd France</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
P	<b>Brandon Hannum</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>So.</b>

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

## 2 Western Michigan

**National Rank**  
**62**

**Coach:** Gary Darnell (31-15, 4 years; 34-20 overall, 5 years)

**2000 record:** 9-3; MAC West: 7-1/T1st

**Site:** Kalamazoo, Mich.

**Stadium:** Waldo Stadium (grass, 30,200)

**Last league title won:** 1988

**Website:** www.wmubroncos.com

### Schedule

A30—Illinois State  
S8—at Virginia Tech  
S15—at Michigan  
S22—Ball State  
S29—at E. Michigan  
O6—Akron  
O13—Bowling Green  
O20—at No. Illinois  
O27—at Miami (Ohio)  
N6—at Toledo  
N17—Central Michigan

**Offensive philosophy:** Western Michigan favors a spread offense to stretch defenses. The Broncos' small, quick receivers are especially adept

at getting into the seams of the defense to pick up big yardage.

**Offensive stars:** QB Jeff Welsh proved to be an accurate passer in his first year as a starter. Despite the success, he'll have to hold off Ryan Harris and Jonathan Drach. Small but quick Josh Bush will become a featured receiver. TE Mobolaji Afariogun has drawn the attention of NFL scouts with his all-around skills.

**Offensive concerns:** The Broncos must replace RB Robert Sanford, the MAC Player of the Year. While Sanford was a bruiser, his replacement—Charles Woods, K.T. Robinson or Philip Reed—will be smaller and faster. Another need is a receiver opposite Bush to make up for the losses of Steve Neal (the MAC's all-time leading receiver) and Corey Alston.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Broncos have the speed to make their 4-3 defense one of the top attacking groups in the MAC.

**Defensive stars:** E Anthony Allsberry is a big-play type with the ability to sack the quarterback and stop runners behind the line of scrimmage. CB Ronald Rogers is a sure tackler and a quality pass defender who plays with emotion. FS Jermaine Lewis has blazing speed.

**Defensive concerns:** The top candidates to replace ILBs Mario Evans and Garrett Soldano (216 tackles combined) are Bryan Lape and Jason Malloy, but leadership from them will be equally important. Reserve Willie Miller is a good linebacking prospect who needs experience.

**Special teams:** Bush is one of the most elusive punt returners in the MAC. He averaged 15 yards per return last season. The biggest task is finding a replacement for K Brad Selent, who was clutch late in games.

**Coaching staff:** Gary Darnell and staff have done an excellent job of building a winning attitude, but they must find a way to get the team to play better late in the season.

**Bottom line:** The Broncos won the West Division title the past two seasons. To make it three straight, they must get a great effort out of a defense that should be one of the best in the MAC.

### PROJECTED STARTERS

#### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Micah Zuhl</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
T	C.R. Moultry	6-6	333	So.
G	<b>Jeff Hinson</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
C	<b>Jake Gasaway</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
G	Adam Cones	6-5	280	Sr.
T	<b>Matt Stover</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
TE	<b>Mobolaji Afariogun</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
WR	Josh Bush	5-9	155	Sr.
WR	Darnell Jennings	6-3	195	Sr.
QB	<b>Jeff Welsh</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
RB	Charles Woods	5-10	194	Sr.

#### Defense

E	Chris Browning	6-2	248	Jr.
E	Anthony Allsberry	6-2	250	Jr.
T	Bryan Pinder	6-1	260	Sr.
NT	Larry King	6-4	268	Sr.
LB	Jason Malloy	6-1	232	Jr.
LB	Bryan Lape	6-3	211	Jr.
LB	Carlos Smith	6-4	216	Sr.
CB	<b>Ronald Rogers</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
SS	Brandon Brown	5-10	185	Sr.
FS	<b>Jermaine Lewis</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
CB	<b>Joe Ballard</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>Sr.</b>

#### Special Teams

K	Byungwoo Yun	5-11	195	So.
P	<b>Matt Steffen</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

Returning starters in bold



# 3 Northern Illinois

**National Rank**  
**74**

**Coach:** Joe Novak  
(14-41-0, five years)  
**2000 record:** 6-5, MAC  
West: 4-3/T 3rd  
**Site:** DeKalb, Ill.  
**Stadium:** Huskie  
(artificial turf, 31,000)  
**Last league title:** 1983  
**Website:**  
www.niu.edu/athletics

## Schedule

A30—South Florida  
S8—at Illinois  
S15—at Wake Forest  
S22—Sam Houston St.  
S29—at Toledo  
O6—Marshall  
O13—at Kent State  
O20—Western Michigan  
O27—at Central Michigan  
N3—Eastern Michigan  
N17—Ball State

**Offensive philosophy:** There's nothing fancy going on with this offense, and coach Joe Novak likes it that way.

The Huskies are old school in that they want to establish the run and mix in a consistent passing attack.

**Offensive stars:** Thomas Hammock was an unknown tailback in 2000, but he had a breakthrough season by rushing for 1,083 yards despite missing 2½ games. QB Chris Finlen won't make anybody's all-conference team, but he does a good job of getting the ball where it needs to go.

**Offensive concerns:** Northern's passing offense produced almost 200 yards per game last year, but record-breaking WR Justin McCareins must be replaced. Northern's productive rushing offense a year ago was helped greatly by three line stalwarts who have since moved on.

**Defensive philosophy:** NIU relies on its linebackers to be active defenders against the run and the pass in its 4-3 scheme. The Huskies like their safeties to be aggressive; the starters at those positions made 470 tackles the past two seasons.

**Defensive stars:** OLB Larry Williams is far from a household name in the MAC, but he could be one of the top playmakers in the league. His speed and quickness make it tough for linemen to block him. NT Darian Tate can be strong inside against the run.

**Defensive concerns:** The team must replace Ss Jermaine Hampton and Buster Sampson, both sure tacklers. The 19 passing touchdowns allowed last year by the Huskies were exceeded by only two other MAC teams.

**Special teams:** Steve Azar was a nice surprise, kicking 14 of 15 field goals and shoring up an inconsistent position. Punting must improve. Jimmy Erwin averaged 38.1 yards per kick, and the Huskies were 11th in the MAC in net punting.

**Coaching staff:** In the past two seasons, Novak and his staff elevated the program to among the best in the second tier of teams in the MAC. Now their challenge is to start chipping away at the elite teams.

**Bottom line:** The Huskies must find a way to compete with the big boys of the MAC. The Huskies lost by two touchdowns to Toledo and 30 points to Western Michigan last year.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	P.J. Fleck	5-10	175	Jr.
T	<b>Tim Vincent</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
G	John Pedersen	6-6	296	Sr.
C	Todd Ghilani	6-3	280	So.
G	Graham Slight	6-3	310	Jr.
T	Mark Orzula	6-7	318	So.
TE	<b>Matt Dunker</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
WR	Darrell Hill	6-3	197	Sr.
QB	<b>Chris Finlen</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
FB	<b>Alan Rood</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
RB	<b>Thomas Hammock</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

### Defense

E	Joe Busaid	6-4	243	Jr.
E	<b>Trent Clemen</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
T	Anthony Falbo	6-5	263	Jr.
NG	<b>Eric Didesch</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
ILB	Nick Duffy	6-1	231	So.
ILB	<b>Larry Williams</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
OLB	Ryan Laurenti	6-2	228	Sr.
CB	<b>Demerist Whitfield</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
SS	Akil Grant	5-10	188	So.
FS	<b>Vince Thompson</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
CB	Randee Drew	5-10	181	So.

### Special Teams

K	<b>Steve Azar</b>	<b>5-7</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>So.</b>
P	<b>Jimmy Erwin</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

*Returning starters in bold*

# 4 Ball State

**National Rank**  
**85**

**Coach:** Bill Lynch  
(26-41, 6 years;  
62-53-3, 11 years)  
**2000 record:** 5-6; MAC  
West: 4-3/T3rd  
**Site:** Muncie, Ind.  
**Stadium:** Ball State  
Stadium (grass, 21,581)  
**Last league title won:**  
1996  
**Website:**  
www.bsu.edu/sports

## Schedule

S1—at Auburn  
S8—at Kentucky  
S15—Southern Illinois  
S22—at W. Michigan  
S29—Miami (Ohio)  
O13—at E. Michigan  
O20—Toledo  
O27—at Connecticut  
N3—Central Michigan  
N10—Kent State  
N17—at Northern Illinois

**Offensive philosophy:** The Cardinals switched to a two tight-end offense last year. That helped them become effective on the ground and allowed

them to have a better blend of running and passing.

**Offensive stars:** TB Marcus Merriweather last season became the ninth Ball State player to crack the 1,000-yard plateau. QB Talmadge Hill was named MAC Freshman of the Year after becoming the starter in the fifth game. WR Sean Schembra had a breakthrough season.

**Offensive concerns:** Despite Merriweather's rushing total, he and the rest of the tailbacks were inconsistent. The offensive line is being reworked because of the loss of three starters.

**Defensive philosophy:** Ball State made a concerted effort last year to get more speed into the lineup, and it expects to be even faster this season. The linebackers in the 4-4 alignment are the key to the defense.

**Defensive stars:** Jade Winchell has developed into one of the school's top safeties in the last decade. ILBs Shaka Johnson and Lorenzo Scott are strong and physical and can go sideline to sideline. Scott led the Cardinals in tackles despite not starting until the fifth game.

**Defensive concerns:** E Rachman Crable, the Cardinals' most physical lineman, is coming off ACL surgery and didn't take part in contact drills during the spring. Ball State's depth on the line took a hit when E Bayette George was ruled out of football because of an eye injury.

**Special teams:** Ks Tom Pucke and Mike Langford combined to make only six of 12 field-goal attempts last season. The Cardinals ranked last in the MAC in net punting at 27.9 yards.

**Coaching staff:** Despite tumultuous times the past three seasons, Bill Lynch has kept most of his staff intact. The Cardinals have lost only two assistants in the last seven years.

**Bottom line:** Ball State has more hope this year than it has had since 1996, when it won the MAC championship. The Cardinals have 17 of 22 starters returning from a team that finished 2000 by winning five of its last seven games. Still, the Cardinals haven't reached the status of West heavyweights Toledo and Western Michigan.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>David Westbrook</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
T	Kris Berry	6-4	278	So.
G	<b>David Miller</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
C	<b>Colin Johnson</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
G	Lavar Charleston	6-3	301	Sr.
T	<b>John Moore</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
TE	Jon Eckert	6-5	247	Jr.
WR	<b>Sean Schembra</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
QB	<b>Talmadge Hill</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>So.</b>
FB	<b>Scott Volk</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
RB	<b>M. Merriweather</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

### Defense

E	<b>Evan Triggs</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
E	<b>Rachman Crable</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
T	Greg Pagnard	6-2	276	So.
T	<b>Mark Zackery</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
OLB	<b>Cornelius Bowick</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
ILB	<b>Shaka Johnson</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
ILB	<b>Lorenzo Scott</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>So.</b>
OLB	Alger Boswell	5-8	201	Sr.
S	<b>Jade Winchell</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
CB	<b>Steve Monson</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
CB	<b>Jesse Avant</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>So.</b>

### Special Teams

K	Thomas Pucke	5-10	205	Sr.
P	Reggie Hodges	6-1	225	So.

*Returning starters in bold*



# 5 Central Michigan

**National Rank**  
**87**

**Coach:** Mike DeBord  
(2-9, 1 year)  
**2000 record:** 2-9; MAC  
West: 2-6/6th  
**Site:** Mount Pleasant,  
Mich.  
**Stadium:** Kelly/Shorts  
Stadium (turf, 30,199)  
**Last league title won:**  
1994  
**Website:**  
www.cmuchippewas.com

## Schedule

A30—Eastern Kentucky  
S8—at Michigan State  
S15—at Boise State  
S22—Toledo  
S29—at Buffalo  
O13—Ohio  
O20—at Marshall  
O27—Northern Illinois  
N3—at Ball State  
N10—Eastern Michigan  
N17—at W. Michigan

**Offensive philosophy:** Coach Mike DeBord wants his team to be able to run the ball effectively without being too run-oriented. The

Chippewas struggled with that last year; this year they'll try to become more effective throwing the ball to try to open up the running game.

**Offensive stars:** Derrick Vickers returns as the starting quarterback after winning the job midway through last season. There is experience in the line with three-year starter Matt Brayton and two-year starters Kyle Croskey and Anders Hill.

**Offensive concerns:** Vickers can be an elusive runner but must improve his throwing accuracy. Central Michigan lost its top two receivers, leaving Steve Messam as the top returnee with just 22 catches.

**Defensive philosophy:** The major emphasis from DeBord is on getting better at stopping the run. The Chippewas hope better pursuit will help a run defense that allowed 267.6 yards per game in 2000.

**Defensive stars:** The Chippewas are solid at cornerback with three-year starters Tedar France and Wayne Dudley. They were part of a secondary that allowed just 149.7 yards passing per game last year. France's five interceptions were second-best in the MAC. LB Darvin Lewis had 13 tackles for loss among his 113 stops in 2000.

**Defensive concerns:** FS Brian Leigeb is gone, leaving a major hole in the team's pass and run coverages. Leigeb made 147 tackles last season. Central Michigan must improve its run defense, which was terrible.

**Special teams:** P Brian Brandt averaged 39.5 yards last year—no Central Michigan punter has averaged 40 since the Chippewas moved into windy Kelly/Shorts Stadium in 1972. Paul Savich and Adam Clyne each have a at the kicking duties after sharing the job last year.

**Coaching staff:** Butch Jones was promoted from running backs coach to offensive coordinator. Defensive line coach Jim Schulte was promoted to assistant head coach.

**Bottom line:** Central Michigan has 18 returning starters, but many of their starting positions are up for grabs after the team went 2-9 last season.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Dante McKnight	5-10	175	So.
T	<b>Matt Brayton</b>	6-7	305	Sr.
G	<b>Derek McLaughlin</b>	6-5	304	So.
C	<b>Anders Hill</b>	6-5	290	Sr.
G	<b>Kyle Croskey</b>	6-3	300	Jr.
T	Adam Kieft	6-7	280	Fr.*
TE	Adam Supianowski	6-3	230	So.
WR	Rob Turner	6-3	190	Jr.
WR	Willie Hill	6-0	195	So.
QB	<b>Derrick Vickers</b>	6-1	185	So.
RB	<b>Robbie Mixon</b>	5-10	170	Jr.

### Defense

E	Ike Ajoku	6-1	245	So.
E	<b>Cullen Jenkins</b>	6-3	245	Jr.
T	<b>Marvin Smith</b>	6-1	265	Jr.
NT	<b>Dominic Mancini</b>	6-3	270	Jr.
OLB	Jon Nelson	6-1	205	Fr.*
ILB	<b>Darvin Lewis</b>	6-3	225	Jr.
ILB	<b>James Westrich</b>	6-1	215	Sr.
OLB	Finley Carter	5-10	180	Sr.
CB	<b>Tedar France</b>	6-0	190	Sr.
FS	Joe Ballard	6-4	205	Fr.*
CB	<b>Rodrico Epps</b>	5-10	185	Sr.

### Special Teams

K	<b>Paul Savich</b>	5-7	150	Sr.
P	<b>Brian Brandt</b>	6-2	200	So.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

# 6 Eastern Michigan

**National Rank**  
**110**

**Coach:** Jeff Woodruff  
(3-8, 1 year)  
**2000 record:** 3-8; MAC  
West: 2-5/5th.  
**Site:** Ypsilanti, Mich.  
**Stadium:** Rynearson  
Stadium (turf, 30,200)  
**Last league title won:**  
1987  
**Website:**  
www.emich.edu/goeagles

## Schedule

S1—SE Missouri State  
S8—at Maryland  
S15—at Akron  
S22—Indiana State  
S29—Western Michigan  
O6—at Connecticut  
O13—Ball State  
O27—Buffalo  
N3—at N. Illinois  
N10—at C. Michigan  
N17—at Toledo

**Offensive philosophy:** Eastern Michigan has been one of the worst rushing teams in the MAC for several seasons. The Eagles would like to

achieve a 50-50 balance in run-pass.

**Offensive stars:** Wide receiver is the deepest position on the team. Kenny Christian and Kevin Walter ranked fourth among Division I-A duos last year with 133 catches for 1,529 yards and eight touchdowns.

**Offensive concerns:** The Eagles must find a quarterback. Troy Edwards, the backup the past two seasons, will get the first chance to win the job, but he'll get a battle from junior college transfer Jeff Crooks. The line was decimated by injuries last year and remains a work in progress.

**Defensive philosophy:** Eastern Michigan approaches defense a lot like MAC rival Miami (Ohio) does. The Eagles aren't especially big and physical, but they have the quickness to run down the ball. EMU relies heavily on its linebackers to make plays.

**Defensive stars:** EMU has one of the top linebacker combos in the MAC in Kenny Philpot on the strong side and Scott Russell in the middle. Philpot led the Eagles in tackles last year; Russell was second. They combined for 10 sacks. The secondary has seven players returning at the four positions.

**Defensive concerns:** Part of the reason Philpot and Russell made so many tackles was the defensive line wasn't physical enough against the run. EMU allowed 4.5 yards per rush in 2000. Returning starters James Turner and Jari Brown in the front four must make more plays.

**Special teams:** K Toller Starnes was steady the past two seasons but will receive competition from Ohio State transfer Eric Klaban. Junior college transfer David Rysko is the top candidate at punter.

**Coaching staff:** EMU officials are convinced Jeff Woodruff will be a winner. Success has followed him throughout his career, which included a national championship in 1991 when he was an assistant at Washington.

**Bottom line:** EMU has too many questions on offense to expect significant improvement. The quarterback is inexperienced, the running backs have never shown consistency, and the line was so ravaged by injury last season that it starts this year with no cohesion.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Kevin Walter</b>	6-3	208	Jr.
T	<b>John Grabowski</b>	6-6	300	Sr.
G	Dan Davis	6-4	250	Fr.
C	<b>Cory Annett</b>	6-2	296	Sr.
G	<b>Rich Chorak</b>	6-2	282	Sr.
T	Michael Johnson	6-3	287	So.
TE	Brett Wells	6-3	238	So.
WR	<b>Kenny Christian</b>	6-1	198	Sr.
WR	Sam Anderson	6-5	220	Fr.*
QB	Troy Edwards	6-2	199	Jr.
RB	Ashanti Watson	5-11	185	So.

### Defense

E	Elliott Daniels	6-0	231	Jr.
E	Antone Hines	6-5	242	Sr.
T	<b>James Turner</b>	6-1	272	Sr.
T	<b>Jari Brown</b>	6-4	244	Sr.
OLB	<b>Kenny Philpot</b>	6-1	238	Sr.
MLB	<b>Scott Russell</b>	6-1	231	Sr.
OLB	London Lindsey	5-9	190	Jr.
CB	Erick Middleton	5-10	182	Jr.
SS	<b>Terrence Dills</b>	6-1	177	Jr.
FS	Josh Martin	6-0	189	So.
CB	Maurice Ryland	6-0	186	Sr.

### Special Teams

K	<b>Toller Starnes</b>	5-7	197	Sr.
P	David Rysko	6-1	185	So.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# Western Athletic

## Another offseason of change leaves Fresno State atop the league heap

By DEREK SAMSON

The WAC continues to be the wackiest conference in Division I-A in terms of membership. Boise State and Louisiana Tech joined the league in the offseason, while TCU departed for Conference USA. That brings the number of WAC teams to 10 in 2001, after having nine in 2000, eight in 1999 and 16 in 1998. TCU was perennially ranked in the Top 25; this season, Fresno State could make its way into the polls.

**Ascending:** Hawaii. It makes sense that the Warriors will put together a strong season. After all, the Warriors went 0-12 in 1998, then won a share of the WAC championship with a 9-4 mark in 1999, coach June Jones' first year with the team. Last year, they were supposed to again contend for the title but instead fell back toward the bottom with a 3-9 record. Timmy Chang, who threw for more than 3,000 yards as a freshman, will work with four returning starters on the offensive line and three at wide receiver.

**Descending:** Boise State. The Broncos, who arrive from from the Big West, can compete with any team in the league—note their Humanitarian Bowl victory over 2000 WAC co-champ UTEP. But Boise State won its league games by an average score of 53-21 last season. The Broncos will finish toward the top of the WAC, but they'll see a difference in preparing for a battle—not a scrimmage—in league play each week.

**Dream schedule:** Tulsa has the toughest game of any WAC team—at Oklahoma on September 15—but that's it. Its other non-conference games are at home against Indiana State and New Mexico State. The schedule never features two straight road games, there is no long trip to Hawaii, and WAC favorite Fresno State will come to Tulsa.

**Nightmare schedule:** Pat Hill wants his Fresno State squad to be a Top 25 team. "We can't do that by playing a weak non-conference schedule," he says. So the Bulldogs will play non-league games at Colorado, Colorado State and Wisconsin. And they will face Oregon State and Utah State at home.

**Best matchup:** WAC teams miss playing one league foe each year, and this is the season Fresno State and UTEP, the preseason Nos. 1 and 2 teams, won't meet. So that leaves Boise State at Fresno State on October 20 as the big one. It should be pretty good,

too, with Fresno State QB David Carr, a candidate for offensive player of the year, trying to beat Boise State S Quintin Mikell, a candidate for defensive player of the year.

### Ugliest matchup:

SMU at Nevada on November 3. SMU coach Mike Cavan was disgusted with his team last season, saying, "I don't think we were a very tough football team." Nevada coach Chris Tormey expressed similar frustrations, saying his players were "weak as kittens." Instead of a football, the teams might play with a ball of yarn in this one.

**Upset of the year:** Hawaii over Fresno State on October 27. Jet lag and Hawaii homecoming excitement could bite the Bulldogs.

**Bowl bound:** Fresno State, UTEP and Boise State. San Jose State has a shot, especially with a bowl game in its backyard and RB Deonce Whitaker in its backfield.

**Biggest shoes to fill:** Ryan Dinwiddie gets the task of following Boise State QB Bart Hendricks, who threw for 3,364 yards and 35 touchdowns in 2000. Broncos coach Dan Hawkins, who took over for departed Dirk Koetter, calmed Dinwiddie by telling him they were in the same boat.

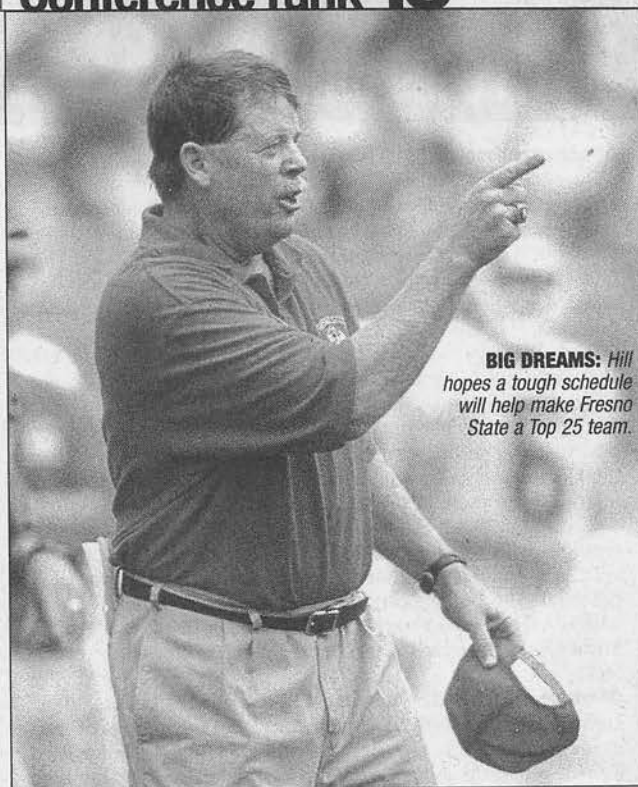
**Most overrated:** Fresno State's running game. Three of the top four rushers return, but they must show more toughness and avoid injuries.

**Most underrated:** Boise State's Mikell. Since the Broncos are new to the league, not many folks know about Mikell. That won't be the case by November.

**Best coaching staff:** UTEP. Gary Nord's staff has expectations soaring in El Paso—and that's not easy to do.

**Coach on the hot seat:** Rice's Ken Hatfield is 34-42-1 in seven seasons.

**Best bets:** Louisiana Tech QB Luke McCown will post giant numbers in his new league. ... Rumors of Hawaii leaving the league for the Mountain West will buzz. ... Rice gradually will move away from its all-option offense and throw the ball more. ... Fresno State's Hill and UTEP's Nord will become candidates for bigger jobs.



**BIG DREAMS:** Hill hopes a tough schedule will help make Fresno State a Top 25 team.

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

## ALL-LEAGUE

### Offense

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Lee Mays, UTEP	6-3	190	Sr.
WR	Donald Shoals, Tulsa	5-10	175	Sr.
TE	Joey Knapp, UTEP	6-6	250	Sr.
T	Chris Fe'esago, San Jose State	6-3	328	Sr.
T	Joe Schey, Fresno State	6-6	315	Jr.
G	Vince Manuwai, Hawaii	6-2	296	Jr.
G	James McCarthy, SMU	6-3	294	Sr.
C	Scott Huff, Boise State	6-2	292	Jr.
QB	David Carr, Fresno State	6-3	220	Sr.
RB	Deonce Whitaker, San Jose State	5-6	180	Sr.
RB	Kris Briggs, SMU	5-11	224	Jr.

### Defense

E	Carlin Thomas, Louisiana Tech	6-3	227	Sr.
E	Nick Burley, Fresno State	6-4	246	Jr.
T	Alan Harper, Fresno State	6-2	285	Sr.
T	Larry Brown, Rice	6-2	309	Sr.
LB	Dan Dawson, Rice	6-2	200	Sr.
LB	Chris Brown, Hawaii	6-1	256	Jr.
LB	Vic Vilorio, SMU	5-10	237	Jr.
CB	Crance Clemons, UTEP	5-10	165	Sr.
CB	Tierre Sams, Fresno State	5-9	170	Sr.
S	Quintin Mikell, Boise State	5-10	197	Jr.
S	Vernon Fox, Fresno State	5-9	195	Sr.

### Specialists

K	Nick Calaycay, Boise State	5-7	168	Jr.
P	Travis Hale, Rice	6-3	201	Jr.
KR	Bernard Berrian, Fresno State	6-1	175	Sr.

### Players of the year

Offense:	Lee Mays, WR, UTEP
Defense:	Quintin Mikell, S, Boise State



# 1 Fresno State

**Offensive philosophy:** This is a tough one. The Bulldogs run a lot of one-back sets, but they'll go with double tight ends. They aren't a conventional two-back offense, but they don't spread receivers all over the field. Fresno State possesses impressive balance, but it depends more on the ground game. Coach Pat Hill believes his team can't be competitive without a solid rushing attack. His offense plays physically, which stems from hard-nosed practices, Hill says.

**Offensive stars:** There are plenty. QB David Carr will battle UTEP WR Lee Mays for honors as WAC offensive player of the year. More impressive than the numbers he has stacked up are his toughness and leadership. Carr steps into throws, despite heavy pass rushes, and delivers the ball on the mark just before he gets hit. His leadership showed when the Bulldogs lost key players to injuries last season. His strong arm, size (6-3, 220) and running ability will attract NFL scouts this season. But Carr has plenty of weapons with which to work. The top three rushers return, along with WRs Charles Smith and Bernard Berrian, who have All-WAC potential. The Bulldogs are deep at wide receiver, led by Berrian, who is a threat as a receiver or returner. On the line, C Rodney Michael is a two-year starter, but he might be moved to guard or tackle.

**Offensive concerns:** The toughness of the running backs. Junior Derrick Ward, a sturdy 230-pounder, could not get out of the training room last season because of a knee injury. Senior Paris Gaines, a backup, joined Ward on the sideline, also with a bum knee. Junior Josh Levi, the smallest running back of the three, led the team in rushing, but he didn't have gaudy numbers. Someone needs to establish himself as the running back, and then stay healthy. Fresno State's offensive line will have five starters tipping the scales at 300-plus pounds, but it isn't a deep group. Outside of the three returning starters, questions swirl. The Bulldogs need a right guard. They want five solid starters and three good backups, but they don't have them yet. The Bulldogs also need to learn which combinations work best on the line.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Bulldogs will line up in a 4-3, but they might have to start the season conservatively. Holes are more apparent in the defense than in the offense.

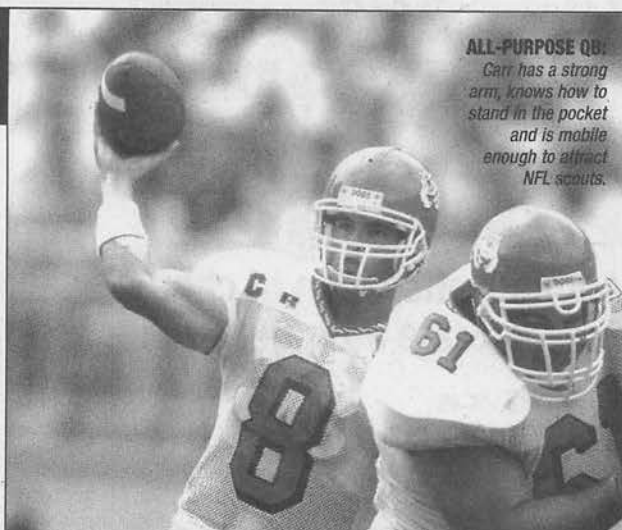
**Defensive stars:** Two-time All-WAC T Alan Harper is the best defensive lineman in the league and one of the best in the nation. He had 31 tackles for loss and eight sacks in the last two seasons. Harper does it more with his quickness off the ball than strength, and he runs well to the ball. E Nick Burley joins Harper on the line, and they could be a menacing combination for offenses. If quarterbacks get time to pass, they must deal with a tough tandem in the defensive backfield: Vernon Fox at safety and Tierre Sams at cornerback. Another safety, Anthony Limbrick, was first-team All-WAC in 1999 but suffered a broken thumb in the open-er last year.

**Defensive concerns:** All three starters at linebacker are gone. However, Justin Johnson returns after missing last season because of a shoulder injury. Still, inexperience at linebacker and depth on the defensive line appear to be problems. And the Bulldogs are relying on key players with injury histories.

**Special teams:** These are always strong under Hill, especially blocking kicks. Last year's solid return and coverage units remain intact, but Terence Brown, the kick-blocking master, is gone. K Asen Asparuhov surprisingly put together an impressive season last year.

**Coaching staff:** Hill, heading into his fifth year, is trying to build a legitimate top-25 team at Fresno State. Bulldog Stadium averaged more fans than its capacity last season. Fans are even more excited about this season's team, which promises to be Hill's best.

**Bottom line:** The schedule is tough (which Hill loves) but the Bulldogs still have a shot at becoming a Top 25 regular. The offense is loaded, and the defense needs just a few answers. Anything less than a WAC title would be a shocking disappointment.



**ALL-PURPOSE QB:** Carr has a strong arm, knows how to stand in the pocket and is mobile enough to attract NFL scouts.

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

## National Rank 33

**Coach:** Pat Hill (26-22, 4 years)

**Offensive coordinator:** Andy Ludwig (4th season)

**Defensive coordinator:** Dan Brown (1st season)

**Offensive scheme:** Pro set

**Defensive scheme:** 4-3

**Starters lost:** 7

**Lettermen lost:** 14

**Lettermen returning:** 48

**Site:** Fresno, Calif.

**Stadium:** Bulldog (grass, 41,031)

**Last league title won:** 1999 (tie)

**Last time didn't go to a bowl:** 1998

**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 40

**2000 record:** 7-5 (lost to Air Force in Silicon Valley Bowl); WAC: 6-2/3rd

**Website:** www.gobulldogs.com

## 2000 Results

at Ohio State, L, 43-10

at UCLA, L, 24-21

California, W, 17-3

at Rice, W, 27-24

Nevada, W, 58-21

at UTEP, L, 23-13

Tulsa, W, 34-12

Hawaii, W, 45-27

at TCU, L, 24-7

SMU, W, 14-7

at San Jose State, 37-6

Air Force, L, 37-34

## Schedule

A25—at Colorado

S1—Oregon State

S8—at Wisconsin

S15—Utah State

S22—at Tulsa

S29—Louisiana Tech

O13—at Colorado State

O20—Boise State

O27—at Hawaii

N3—Rice

N10—at SMU

N17—at Nevada

N24—San Jose State

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Charles Smith</b>	5-7	175	Jr.
	David Shabaglian	6-0	184	Jr.
T	Fitu Tu'u'a	6-5	310	So.
	Patrick Fanene	6-0	285	Jr.
G	<b>Russell Harding</b>	6-2	300	Sr.
	Patrick Fanene	6-0	285	Jr.
C	Keith McKnight	6-4	315	Jr.
	DeJon Kelly	6-1	293	Jr.
G	<b>Rodney Michael</b>	6-4	300	Jr.
	Antonio Sanchez	6-5	300	So.
T	<b>Joe Schey</b>	6-6	315	Jr.
	Antonio Sanchez	6-5	300	So.
TE	<b>Jeremy Johnson</b>	6-4	205	So.
	Duncan Reid	6-6	220	Fr.*
WR	<b>Bernard Berrian</b>	6-1	175	Jr.
	Rodney Wright	5-9	175	Sr.
QB	<b>David Carr</b>	6-3	220	Sr.
	Jeff Grady	6-1	194	Jr.
RB	Josh Levi	5-7	192	Jr.
	Paris Gaines	6-0	233	Sr.
FB	Alec Greco	6-2	235	So.
	Stephen Spach	6-4	220	Fr.*

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	<b>Jake Probst</b>	6-2	238	Sr.
	Clarence Denning	6-2	257	So.
T	<b>Alan Harper</b>	6-2	285	Sr.
	Justin Woltz	6-2	255	So.
NT	Jason Stewart	6-0	280	Jr.
	Grant Harrington	6-0	272	Sr.
E	<b>Nick Burley</b>	6-4	246	Jr.
	Brian Morris	6-2	250	So.
OLB	Maurice Rodriguez	6-2	240	Sr.
	Sam Williams	6-5	240	Jr.
MLB	Marc Dailey	6-1	230	So.
	Terrance Hampton	6-1	220	Sr.
OLB	Justin Johnson	6-3	220	Sr.
	Jermaine McDermott	6-1	220	So.
CB	Devon Banks	5-10	180	Sr.
	Juan Bautista	5-8	192	So.
SS	<b>Vernon Fox</b>	5-9	195	Sr.
	Anthony Limbrick	6-1	205	Sr.
FS	<b>Bryce McGill</b>	5-10	193	So.
	Anthony Limbrick	6-1	205	Sr.
CB	<b>Tierre Sams</b>	5-9	170	Sr.
	Dee Meza	5-8	193	So.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	<b>Asen Asparuhov</b>	6-5	215	Jr.
P	<b>Jason Simpson</b>	6-1	185	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 2 Texas-El Paso

**National rank**  
**54**

**Coach:** Gary Nord (8-4, 1 year)

**2000 record:** 8-4 (lost to Boise State in Humanitarian Bowl);

**WAC:** 7-1/T1st

**Site:** El Paso, Texas

**Stadium:** Sun Bowl (turf, 52,000)

**Last league title won:** 2000 (tie)

**Website:**

www.athletics.utep.edu

## Schedule

A31—at New Mexico

S8—Texas Southern

S15—Texas Tech

S22—at Boise State

S29—Tulsa

O6—at Alabama

O13—at Hawaii

O20—San Jose State

O27—at SMU

N10—Louisiana Tech

N17—at Rice

N24—Nevada

**Offensive philosophy:** Get senior WR Lee Mays the ball. Mays, an All-American candidate, can take over a game. UTEP will continue throwing

the ball to set up the run, although it uses a two-back set.

**Offensive stars:** Mays makes it impossible for opponents to go with man coverage. He can catch the ball in crowds and break long runs. But other weapons must emerge in the passing game. TE Joey Knapp is a good bet there. He is taller and faster than Brian Natkin, UTEP's first-team All-American last season.

**Offensive concerns:** With UTEP's emphasis on the pass, it is impossible to ignore the loss of QB Rocky Perez. Senior Wesley Phillips, the son of former Buffalo Bills coach Wade Phillips, would appear to own the job. But freshman Jon Schaper is on his heels.

**Defensive philosophy:** UTEP goes with an eight-man front and plays bump-and-run with its corners.

**Defensive stars:** Seven of the top eight defensive linemen return. A group of ends, led by Karmul High and Gabe Williams, will give quarterbacks nightmares. UTEP should have the best pass rush in the league and a solid secondary, including CB Crance Clemons and S D.J. Walker.

**Defensive concerns:** Linebacker will be thin. The Miners lost Trey Merkens to graduation, and returning starter Camar Jackson is recovering from shoulder surgery. But the linebackers just need to be average in this defense.

**Special teams:** Finally, a weak area. UTEP lost its punter and kicker and will need to develop some.

**Coaching staff:** Gary Nord and his staff have El Paso buzzing about football, and expectations are soaring. Nord will get offers from bigger-name schools if this season goes as expected.

**Bottom line:** UTEP doesn't have many holes and will fight Fresno State for the league's top spot.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Will Smith	6-2	195	Fr.*
T	Ariel Famaligi	6-3	300	Jr.
G	Lawrence Norman	6-3	315	Sr.
C	Chris Kerr	6-4	250	So.
G	Robert Clayton	6-3	280	So.
T	Trey Darilek	6-5	270	So.
TE	Joey Knapp	6-6	250	Sr.
WR	Lee Mays	6-3	190	Sr.
QB	Wesley Phillips	6-4	220	Sr.
FB	Chris Porter	5-11	235	Sr.
RB	Sherman Austin	5-8	170	Jr.

### Defense

E	Karmul High	6-4	235	Jr.
E	Gabe Williams	6-5	225	Jr.
T	Samuel Clarke	6-3	265	So.
T	Bobby King	6-4	265	Sr.
ROV	Joe Young	6-1	205	So.
ILB	Bubba Wiseman	6-0	260	Jr.
ILB	Camar Jackson	6-4	240	Jr.
CB	Weldon Cooks	6-2	185	Jr.
SS	Tim Woodard	5-11	185	So.
FS	D.J. Walker	6-3	210	Jr.
CB	Crance Clemons	5-10	165	Sr.

### Special Teams

K	Matt Smith	5-10	180	Fr.
P	Bryce Benekos	6-5	195	Fr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

# 3 Boise State

**National Rank**  
**68**

**Coach:** Dan Hawkins (1st year; 40-11-1 overall, 5 years)

**2000 record:** 10-2 (beat UTEP in Humanitarian Bowl). Big West: 5-0/1st

**Site:** Boise, Idaho

**Stadium:** Bronco (artificial turf, 30,000)

**Last league title won:** 2000 (Big West)

**Website:**

www.broncosports.com

## Schedule

S1—at South Carolina

S8—Washington State

S15—Central Michigan

S22—UTEP

S29—at Idaho

O6—at Rice

O13—Tulsa

O20—at Fresno State

O27—Nevada

N10—at Hawaii

N17—San Jose State

N24—at Louisiana Tech

**Offensive philosophy:** Dirk Koetter was rewarded for building an offensive machine at Boise State with the head coaching job at Arizona State.

The Broncos were never held to fewer than 31 points last season. New coach Dan Hawkins, an assistant under Koetter, doesn't plan to change the offensive approach. Boise State will use a wide-open passing game with a solid running game to keep opponents honest, but it will be hard to duplicate numbers such as the 322 passing yards per game.

**Offensive stars:** Amazingly, in such a pass-happy scheme, Boise State's most important player is RB Brock Forsey, who finished with 914 rushing yards last season and is also a receiving threat. Ryan Dinwiddie replaces star QB Bart Hendricks. Forsey needs to be the No. 1 weapon in the offense early, taking the pressure off Dinwiddie.

**Offensive concerns:** Dinwiddie's maturity is the biggest question. Also, with so many weapons at wide receiver, it will be interesting to see how the new coaching staff spreads the ball around.

**Defensive philosophy:** New defensive coordinator Bob Gregory will switch things slightly. The base will be a three-linebacker set, and the corners will get more help. But the Broncos will continue to blitz often.

**Defensive stars:** S Quintin Mikell is a machine, whether he's blitzing, stuffing runs or breaking up passes.

**Defensive concerns:** Pick a position. The defensive line again is thin, but that was supposed to be the school's downfall last season. There are questions at linebacker and cornerback.

**Special teams:** Nick Calaycay is one of the best kickers in the nation, and returner David Mikell ranks toward the top of the WAC. P Keith Schuttler is an unknown, but with Boise State's offense, punters aren't used much.

**Coaching staff:** Hawkins turned down \$40,000 in personal salary and put it toward a salary pool for his assistant coaches. On paper, it appears to have paid off, with a Pac-10-heavy staff.

**Bottom line:** The Broncos will be contenders, but holes on defense will help deny them a title. Expect another Humanitarian Bowl appearance.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Jeb Putzier	6-5	234	Sr.
T	Peter Naumes	6-3	279	Sr.
G	Jeff Cheek	6-5	293	Sr.
C	Scott Huff	6-2	292	Jr.
G	Rob Vian	6-5	300	Jr.
T	Matt Hill	6-6	298	Sr.
TE	Kevin Louwsma	6-4	250	So.
WR	Jay Swillie	6-3	207	Jr.
QB	Ryan Dinwiddie	6-0	192	So.
RB	Brock Forsey	5-11	198	Jr.
FB	Matt Strohfus	6-2	233	Jr.

### Defense

E	Markus Purkiss	6-3	237	Jr.
E	Mike Phillips	6-2	241	Sr.
T	Tony Altieri	5-10	280	Jr.
T	Bobby Hammer	6-2	263	Jr.
ILB	LaGarry Mitchell	6-1	244	So.
ILB	Andy Avalos	5-10	213	Fr.*
OLB	Greg Sasser	5-9	206	Sr.
CB	Greg Toomes	5-9	177	Sr.
SS	Wes Nurse	5-10	181	So.
FS	Quintin Mikell	5-10	197	Jr.
CB	Julius Brown	5-10	184	So.

### Special Teams

K	Nick Calaycay	5-7	168	Jr.
P	Keith Schuttler	5-11	191	Jr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt



# 4 San Jose State

**National Rank**  
**75**

**Coach:** Fitz Hill (1st year).  
**2000 record:** 7-5; WAC: 5-3/4th.  
**Site:** San Jose, Calif.  
**Stadium:** Spartan (grass, 30,456).  
**Last league title won:** 1992.  
**Website:** www.sjsuspartans.com

## Schedule

S1—at Southern California  
S8—at Colorado  
S15—Stanford  
S22—Nevada  
S29—at Arizona  
O6—at Louisiana Tech  
O13—SMU  
O20—at UTEP  
O27—Tulsa  
N3—at Hawaii  
N17—at Boise State  
N24—at Fresno State

**Offensive philosophy:** The team uses different forms of a multiple offense with the emphasis on getting RB Deonce Whitaker the ball in

every possible way. Whitaker averaged more than 8 yards each time he touched the ball last season, so the coaches' challenge is finding creative ways to use him. Whitaker provides balance for a wide-open offense.

**Offensive stars:** Whitaker, who had nearly 1,600 rushing yards last season, leads a long list. Look for even larger numbers this season because defenses can't focus entirely on Whitaker. The Spartans return nine offensive starters. QB Marcus Arroyo, who has shown he can win big games, is back with his top three receivers. The deep, balanced group of receivers features Rashied Davis, who averaged 19.6 yards per catch last year. And Whitaker will run behind a line that brings back four starters, including T Chris Fe'esago, an Outland Trophy candidate last season who might move to guard.

**Offensive concerns:** The team needs a tight end to emerge. That's it.

**Defensive philosophy:** This club's defense either forced a turnover or gave up a big play last season. The Spartans had 31 takeaways but yielded a whopping 475.9 yards per game. The new coaching staff wisely plans to back off the high-risk stuff and will use a 4-3 front.

**Defensive stars:** CB Alex Wallace is the only one close to this category.

**Defensive concerns:** Several new starters are needed, which might be a good thing after last year. The priority needs to be stopping the run.

**Special teams:** P Michael Carr and K Nick Gilliam return. Gilliam had a poor start last year but finished strong.

**Coaching staff:** Coach Fitz Hill is in his first season. He has two holdover coaches with the rest of the staff new.

**Bottom line:** No opponent will stop the offense. No opponent's offense will be stymied by the defense. But the Spartans will outscore enough opponents to make a case for a bowl berth.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Edell Shepperd	6-1	159	Sr.
T	Chris Fe'esago	6-3	324	Sr.
G	Joseph Hayes	6-4	291	So.
C	Bruno Contreras	6-2	306	Sr.
G	Joel Tautuaa	6-4	355	Sr.
T	Tim Provost	6-6	281	Jr.
TE	George Campos	6-4	266	Sr.
WR	Casey LaBlanc	5-10	192	Sr.
WR	Rashied Davis	5-9	177	Sr.
QB	Marcus Arroyo	6-10	190	Jr.
RB	Deonce Whitaker	5-6	185	Sr.

### Defense

E	Brandon Miles	6-0	246	Sr.
E	Kevin Michaelis	6-4	249	Sr.
T	Larry Dawson	6-0	284	Sr.
T	Bill Mateialona	6-3	283	Sr.
OLB	Luke LaHerran	6-0	220	Jr.
MLB	Patrick Battle	5-11	239	Sr.
OLB	Alvin Dean	6-0	223	Sr.
CB	Alex Wallace	5-10	169	Sr.
SS	Larry Thompson	6-0	184	Sr.
FS	Melvin Cook	5-9	199	So.
CB	Willie Adams	5-10	169	Sr.

### Special Teams

K	Nick Gilliam	5-8	177	Jr.
P	Michael Carr	5-10	185	Sr.

*Returning starters in bold*

# 5 Hawaii

**National Rank**  
**88**

**Coach:** June Jones (12-13, two years)  
**2000 record:** 3-9; WAC: 2-6/T6th  
**Site:** Honolulu  
**Stadium:** Aloha (artificial turf, 50,000)  
**Last league title won:** 1999 (tie)  
**Website:** uhathletics.hawaii.edu

## Schedule

S8—vs. Montana\*  
S15—at Nevada  
S29—Rice  
O6—at SMU  
O13—UTEP  
O20—at Tulsa  
O27—Fresno State  
N3—San Jose State  
N10—Boise State  
N17—Miami (Ohio)  
N24—Air Force  
D1—Brigham Young  
\*at Maui, Hawaii

**Offensive philosophy:** Hawaii doesn't plan to change anything after the program took a step backward last season. The Warriors will continue

to run a June Jones favorite: the run-and-shoot, with four wide receivers, one running back and a quarterback firing away.

**Offensive stars:** QB Timmy Chang is the primary reason Hawaii believes it can contend for the title again after sharing it in 1999. Chang threw for 3,041 yards as a true freshman. He'll have an experienced line and receiving corps with which to work.

**Offensive concerns:** The Warriors don't have much at running back.

**Defensive philosophy:** Hawaii will stick with a 4-3 formation, but it is moving players in an effort to become more physical. Es Chris Brown and Joe Correia have been moved to linebacker. Brown seemed to tire too quickly at defensive end.

**Defensive stars:** The strength of the defense will be safety, which will make it difficult for teams to strike deep against the Warriors. Starter Jacob Espiau returns.

**Defensive concerns:** Hawaii needs to be more physical against the run. It defended the pass well and blitzed fine, but the Warriors couldn't tackle a running back. Cornerback appeared to be a weak link until spring ball proved otherwise.

**Special teams:** Kicking will be shaky, but the Warriors have a solid punting game with the return of Mat McBriar.

**Coaching staff:** Jones nearly died in a February 22 automobile accident, suffering serious head and internal injuries. He missed all of the spring practices and watched the spring game from his office. Interim head coach George Lumpkin took over during Jones' absence. Whether the emotion is used as a positive or the ordeal proves to be a distraction remains to be seen.

**Bottom line:** Hawaii will be closer to the 1999 team that shared a league title than last year's squad.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Justin Colbert	5-6	155	Jr.
T	Lui Fuata	6-3	305	Jr.
G	Manly Kanoa	6-5	314	Sr.
C	Brian Smith	6-1	280	Sr.
G	Vince Manuwai	6-2	296	Jr.
T	Uriah Moenoa	6-3	335	Fr.*
WR	Channon Harris	5-8	153	Sr.
WR	Craig Stutzmann	5-10	203	Sr.
WR	Ashley Lelie	6-3	178	Jr.
QB	Timmy Chang	6-1	190	So.
RB	Thero Mitchell	5-10	207	So.

### Defense

E	Laanui Correa	6-2	253	Jr.
E	Houston Ala	6-1	218	So.
T	Mike Iosua	6-2	282	Sr.
T	Lui Fuga	6-2	305	Jr.
OLB	Joe Correia	6-2	246	Sr.
ILB	Chris Brown	6-1	256	Jr.
ILB	Pisa Tinoisamoa	6-1	255	Jr.
CB	Gary Wright	5-10	191	So.
SS	Jacob Espiau	5-10	190	Sr.
FS	David Gilmore	6-0	178	Jr.
CB	Hyrum Peters	5-8	182	So.

### Special Teams

K	Justin Ayat	6-0	198	Fr.*
P	Mat McBriar	6-1	189	So.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*



# 6 Tulsa

**National Rank**  
**95**

**Coach:** Keith Burns  
(5-7, 1 year).  
**2000 record:** 5-7;  
WAC: 4-4/5th.  
**Site:** Tulsa, Okla.  
**Stadium:** Skelly (turf,  
40,385).  
**Last league title won:**  
1985 (Missouri Valley).  
**Website:**  
www.tulsa-hurricane.com

## Schedule

A30—Indiana State  
S15—at Oklahoma  
S22—Fresno State  
S29—at UTEP  
O6—New Mexico State  
O13—at Boise State  
O20—Hawaii  
O27—at San Jose State  
N3—Louisiana Tech  
N10—at Rice  
N17—SMU

senior WR Donald Shoals as an All-American candidate. QB Josh Blankenship returns for his junior season and, though he was hot and cold last year, could form a potent partnership with Shoals. RB Ken Bohanon provides offensive balance on third-down- and short-yardage situations.

**Offensive concerns:** Another weapon needs to develop in the passing game. Redshirt freshman WR Montiesse Culton could be the answer there.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Golden Hurricane's eight-man front emphasizes the blitz and pressuring the quarterback. But coach Keith Burns realized last season he might not have the players on defense to take as many risks. Expect Tulsa to play a little more conservatively than it did last year.

**Defensive stars:** DE Drew McLaughlin has a shot at All-WAC, but he better be ready for all the attention from offensive lines. Rover Keithan McCorry is the only experienced player Tulsa returns in the defensive backfield. Keep an eye on LB Michael Dulaney, an Oklahoma transfer.

**Defensive concerns:** Where to start? The line was hit hardest by graduation. The secondary is inexperienced. The linebackers will rely on a transfer and two sophomores.

**Special teams:** Shoals is a game-breaker as a punt returner. The kicking game should be solid as well.

**Coaching staff:** Burns promised enthusiasm and players who worked hard when he arrived last season. The Golden Hurricane then went out and got their most wins (5) since 1991. Burns' teams are based on tough, aggressive defenses, and the offense is continually developing.

**Bottom line:** Tulsa was competitive last season, despite its youth. This season should be no different. The offensive firepower is there to make a run at the WAC title. Unfortunately for Tulsa, its defense could push it toward the bottom of the standings. They'll probably cancel each other out and help fashion a .500 season.

**Offensive philosophy:** Tulsa will remain a one-back team that relies on play-action passing.

**Offensive stars:** The school is touting

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Darrell Wimberly	6-0	195	So.
T	<b>Austin Chadwick</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>So.</b>
G	Matt Black	6-2	304	So.
C	Anthony Taylor	6-1	272	Jr.
G	Tony Katic	6-4	308	So.
T	Kevin Shaffer	6-5	290	Sr.
TE	<b>Jarod Roach</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>So.</b>
WR	<b>Donald Shoals</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
WR	Brandon Birks	5-10	170	Jr.
QB	<b>Josh Blankenship</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
RB	Eric Richardson	5-9	170	So.

### Defense

E	Brad Hawkins	6-3	230	Jr.
E	Drew McLaughlin	6-3	225	Sr.
T	Justin Dixon	6-1	237	Sr.
NG	<b>Sam Rayburn</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
LB	Jorma Bailey	6-0	180	So.
LB	Michael Dulaney	6-2	218	Jr.
ROV	<b>Keithan McCorry</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
BAN	<b>Chad Smith</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>So.</b>
FS	<b>Harold Burgess</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
CB	C.J. Scott	5-7	160	So.
CB	Sherman Steptoe	5-9	175	So.

### Special Teams

K	<b>Chris Earnest</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
P	<b>Casey Lipscomb</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>So.</b>

*Returning starters in bold*

# 7 Rice

**National Rank**  
**103**

**Coach:** Ken Hatfield  
(34-42-1, 7 years;  
145-104-4 overall, 22  
years)  
**2000 record:** 3-8; WAC:  
2-6/T6th  
**Site:** Houston  
**Stadium:** Rice (artificial  
turf, 70,000)  
**Last league title won:**  
1994 (Southwest, tie)  
**Website:**  
www.riceowls.com

## Schedule

S1—at Houston  
S8—Duke  
S15—at Nebraska  
S29—at Hawaii  
O6—Boise State  
O13—at Navy  
O20—Nevada  
O27—at Louisiana Tech  
N3—at Fresno State  
N10—Tulsa  
N17—UTEP  
N24—at SMU

rushers from last season, which is essential in its offense. But Owls coach Ken Hatfield says his team will look to pass more and needs to be more effective throwing to WR Gavin Boothe.

**Offensive stars:** Boothe could be one if Rice learns how to pass. Boothe has speed, hands and big-play ability. The Owls actually have four solid receivers—remember, this is a running team—and senior Gilbert Okoronkwo is the second weapon behind Boothe. If C Aaron Sandoval bounces back from a knee injury, he will lead a deep line.

**Offensive concerns:** Quarterback is again unsettled. The Owls used four QBs last season, and three return: Kyle Herm, Corey Evans and Jeremy Hurd. Evans missed a portion of spring ball (pulled hamstring). Hurd looks like a good bet to be the opening day starter. The Owls also need more production from their tailbacks.

**Defensive philosophy:** Rice goes with an eight-man front, but it mixes up the defense continually.

**Defensive stars:** LB Dan Dawson is a candidate for defensive player of the year. Hatfield touts him as a "legit All-American candidate."

**Defensive concerns:** S Jason Hebert will need plenty of help from a secondary that lost Travis Ortega and Josh McMillan. CB Kenny Smith is tested, but opponents will test the rest of the defensive backs often. Rice might back off its blitzes to help this secondary.

**Special teams:** No problems here. Both kickers return, including P Travis Hale, the best in the league.

**Coaching staff:** Rice hired a new quarterbacks coach in John Bland. The position definitely must be improved for the Owls to have a shot.

**Bottom line:** It's not a good sign when a running team's best players are wide receivers. A winning record should be the goal.

**Offensive philosophy:** The Owls will continue running the spread option, much like the offense Air Force uses. Rice returns the top three

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	<b>Gavin Boothe</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>So.</b>
T	Anthony Mowry	6-4	272	Sr.
G	<b>Heath Fowler</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
C	<b>Aaron Sandoval</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
G	<b>Ryan Smith</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
T	<b>Billy Harvin</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
TE	<b>Brandon Manning</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
QB	Jeremy Hurd	5-10	160	So.
LHB	Vincent Hawkins	5-6	175	Jr.
FB	<b>Jamie Tyler</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
RHB	<b>Leroy Bradley</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Sr.</b>

### Defense

E	Clint Jackson	6-1	250	Sr.
E	<b>Brandon Green</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>Jr.</b>
NG	<b>B.J. Ferguson</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
T	<b>Larry Brown</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
ILB	<b>Rashard Pittman</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
ILB	<b>Joe Bob Thompson</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
OLB	<b>Dan Dawson</b>	<b>6-2</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
CB	Raymorriss Barnes	5-9	170	Fr.*
SS	Antwan Shell	5-11	185	Jr.
FS	<b>Jason Hebert</b>	<b>6-0</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
CB	<b>Kenny Smith</b>	<b>5-7</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>Sr.</b>

### Special Teams

K	<b>Derek Crabtree</b>	<b>6-4</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>Sr.</b>
P	<b>Travis Hale</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>Jr.</b>

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*



# 8 SMU

**National Rank**  
**107**

**Coach:** Mike Cavan  
(18-27, 4 years;  
85-76-2 overall,  
15 years)  
**2000 record:** 3-9;  
**WAC:** 2-6/T6th  
**Site:** Dallas  
**Stadium:** Gerald J. Ford  
(grass, 32,000)  
**Last league title won:**  
1984 (Southwest)  
**Website:**  
www.smmustangs.com

## Schedule

S1—Louisiana Tech\*  
S8—TCU  
S15—at North Carolina  
S22—North Carolina St.  
O6—Hawaii  
O13—at San Jose State  
O27—UTEP  
N3—at Nevada  
N10—Fresno State  
N17—at Tulsa  
N24—Rice  
\*at Shreveport, La.

**Offensive philosophy:** The Mustangs run a one-back offense, but they try to be more balanced than most one-back teams.

**Offensive stars:** Junior RB Kris Briggs should be one of the best in the conference. He runs strong and plays with a physical style the rest of the Mustangs should copy. Briggs will be expected to be a leader, especially with the young group of quarterbacks, and basically carry the team.

**Offensive concerns:** Outside of Briggs, you name it. Overall, a lack of toughness and physical play was the biggest thing that held SMU back last season. Coach Mike Cavan addressed that issue in the offseason and feels like there was a change in work ethic. The offensive line, particularly, needs to get tougher, G James McCarthy excluded. SMU also received poor play from its quarterbacks last season and that spot appears shaky again. Sophomore Kelan Luker and junior David Page are battling for the No. 1 spot, and both have limited game experience. SMU also must find some receivers that play hard and go for the ball.

**Defensive philosophy:** SMU's coaches like to run a 4-3, attacking defense, but the Mustangs left off the attacking part last season.

**Defensive stars:** Junior LB Vic Vilorio led the WAC in tackles last season, and he will compete to be the league's defensive player of the year. The Mustangs return a talented secondary.

**Defensive concerns:** This team must play harder up front. It returns experience and talent along the defensive line, but that talent must play with some pride and—here is that word again—toughness.

**Special teams:** SMU returns plenty here, but it signed two kickers in February, and all the jobs will be up for grabs before the season.

**Coaching staff:** Cavan is heading into his fifth season with an 18-27 record. He recognizes the problems. Now we'll see whether he can fix them.

**Bottom line:** This league's balance can punish teams that are not mentally tough. SMU will land toward the bottom again.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Chris Cunningham	5-8	186	Jr.
T	Joey Slaten	6-6	309	Sr.
G	James McCarthy	6-3	294	Sr.
C	Steve Reindl	6-3	274	So.
G	Thorton Chandler	6-2	277	Jr.
T	Towsend Hargis	6-4	255	Fr.*
TE	John Hampton	6-2	245	Jr.
WR	Johnnie Freeman	5-11	191	Jr.
WR	Billy Ford	6-3	213	Jr.
QB	Kelan Luker	6-1	209	So.
RB	Kris Briggs	5-11	224	Jr.

### Defense

E	Johnson Patman	6-2	240	Sr.
E	Kevin Aldridge	6-1	271	Sr.
T	Warrie Birdwell	6-4	272	Jr.
T	Lute Croy	6-2	309	Jr.
OLB	B.J. Williams	6-2	200	Jr.
MLB	Vic Vilorio	5-10	237	Jr.
OLB	Jarrian James	6-0	205	So.
CB	Jonas Rutledge	5-10	174	So.
SS	Leroy Price	6-1	205	So.
FS	Ruben Moodley	6-0	186	So.
CB	Kevin Garrett	5-10	196	Jr.

### Special Teams

K	Jacob Crowley	5-11	191	Sr.
P	Adam Walterscheid	5-11	191	Sr.

Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt

# 9 Louisiana Tech

**National Rank**  
**108**

**Coach:** Jack Bicknell  
(11-12, 2 years)  
**2000 record:** 3-9  
**Site:** Ruston, La.  
**Stadium:** Joe Aillet  
(grass, 30,600)  
**Last bowl appearance:**  
1990  
**Website:**  
www.latechsports.com

## Schedule

S1—SMU  
S8—at Oklahoma State  
S15—at Kansas State  
S29—at Fresno State  
O6—San Jose State  
O13—at Nevada  
O20—at Auburn  
O27—Rice  
N3—at Tulsa  
N10—at UTEP  
N24—Boise State

**Offensive philosophy:** The Bulldogs, who join Boise State as newcomers to the WAC, run multiple schemes with a pass-happy flavor.

**Offensive stars:** QB Luke McCown made numerous all-freshman teams last season after recording five 300-yard passing games and three 400-yarders. His primary target will be go-to WR Delwyn Daigre.

**Offensive concerns:** RB John Simon contributes, but he does it out of the backfield as a receiver more than as a straight-ahead runner. The running game, however, is deep. The biggest concern is McCown's decision-making. The Bulldogs threw 28 interceptions last year, 15 by McCown. Louisiana Tech must cut down on its turnovers.

**Defensive philosophy:** Again, multiple is the key word for the Bulldogs. But they might want to consider a more aggressive pass rush, considering they made just 11 interceptions last season.

**Defensive stars:** Louisiana Tech's leading tackler, rover Bobby Gray, returns for his senior season. He can play all over the field and take over games. He also steps up in big games. E Carlin Thomas also will give offenses problems.

**Defensive concerns:** The Bulldogs bend and break. They gave up plenty of yards and points, many of which can be blamed on turnovers. The defense needs to refuse to collapse after offensive blunders.

**Special teams:** Two sophomores return after handling kicking duties last season. Josh Scobee drilled a 51-yard field goal against Miami last year.

**Coaching staff:** Jack Bicknell and his staff suffered a setback in last season's 3-9 mark as an independent. With talk of a turnaround, another three-win season would lead to grumbling around Ruston.

**Bottom line:** The schedule is rough. There are no easy wins in the WAC for a team like the Bulldogs, and their non-conference schedule includes Oklahoma State, Kansas State and Auburn. Tech needs to correct its turnover problems, or it could have another three-win season.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Allen Stark	6-2	193	Sr.
T	Logan Hulett	6-5	272	Sr.
G	Randy Richard	6-4	300	Sr.
C	Shawn Murff	6-3	276	Jr.
G	Thomas Coury	6-4	319	Sr.
T	Damian Laverne	6-6	344	Jr.
WR	Delwyn Daigre	5-11	205	Sr.
WR	Frank Thompson	5-9	177	Sr.
WR	D.J. Curry	5-9	171	So.
QB	Luke McCown	6-4	200	So.
RB	John Simon	5-9	202	Sr.

### Defense

E	Carlin Thomas	6-3	227	Sr.
E	Clint Ellsworth	6-4	277	Jr.
T	Brandon Avance	6-3	250	Jr.
NT	Jamie Nichols	6-3	306	Sr.
ILB	Antonio Crow	6-0	223	So.
MLB	Gerome Wallace	6-1	239	Jr.
OLB	Curtis Randall	6-2	227	Jr.
CB	Willie Sheppard	5-9	197	Jr.
ROV	Bobby Gray	6-1	210	Sr.
FS	Michael J. Lenard	6-0	198	Jr.
CB	Jason Olford	5-10	180	Sr.

### Special Teams

K	Josh Scobee	6-1	174	So.
P	Dustin Upton	5-11	204	So.

Returning starters in bold



# 10 Nevada

**National Rank**  
**111**

**Coach:** Chris Tormey  
(2-10, 1 year; 35-33,  
6 years)

**2000 record:** 2-10;

**WAC:** 1-7/9th

**Site:** Reno, Nev.

**Stadium:** Mackay  
(grass, 31,545)

**Last league title won:**  
1996 (Big West)

**Website:**  
www.nevadawolfpack.com

## Schedule

S1—at Brigham Young  
S8—at Colorado State  
S15—Hawaii  
S22—at San Jose State  
O6—UNLV  
O13—Louisiana Tech  
O20—at Rice  
O27—at Boise State  
N3—SMU  
N17—Fresno State  
N24—at UTEP

**Offensive philosophy:** Nevada will stick with its one-back offense and let its best player, QB David Neill, attack. Neill's favorite target,

WR Nate Burleson, also is back. The running game was not a factor last season. Coach Chris Tormey thinks his team is more physically ready this year after training under strength coach John Archer from Nebraska. If that's true, the Wolf Pack will look to run the ball more.

**Offensive stars:** "Neill to Burleson" will be a familiar call this season. But if more offense isn't found, so will "The Wolf Pack is set to punt."

**Offensive concerns:** Ten starters return, which isn't necessarily a good thing. Neill was sacked 25 times in the first two games last season.

Nevada's offensive line needs to get tougher.

**Defensive philosophy:** Tormey wants to keep using an eight-man front in an attacking-style defense. The Pack will feel comfortable blitzing, knowing that FS Ronnie Hardiman is downfield. Then again, the other spots in the secondary could be much less secure if it tries to be too aggressive.

**Defensive stars:** Hardiman is a potential All-WAC player, and teams will try to avoid him as much as possible. LB Jorge Cordova is solid.

**Defensive concerns:** Seven freshmen started on defense last season. Nevada will be more mature this year, but it still is too young. Like the offense, Nevada's defense needs to toughen up in the weight room. Teams ran over Nevada last season, so it must focus on stopping the ground game.

**Special teams:** P Derek Jones should help win the field-position game, but the return game might negate some of the gains. The punt return team needs to improve. Kicking is another question mark.

**Coaching staff:** Tormey, who arrived in Reno last season from Idaho, admits his expectations were too high. He is an offensive-minded coach who lacks the weapons.

**Bottom line:** Nevada's goal should be to keep games close this season. Its closest loss last season was by 13 points.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Mike Crawford	5-9	168	Jr.
T	Nick Rae	6-3	295	Sr.
G	Kika Kaululaau	6-0	305	Sr.
C	Cody Johnson	6-4	270	Jr.
G	John Tennert	6-3	288	So.
T	Alan Parker	6-6	290	So.
TE	Scott Asai	6-3	235	Sr.
WR	Tim Fleming	6-1	165	So.
WR	Nate Burleson	6-2	169	Jr.
QB	David Neill	6-5	202	Sr.
RB	Adrien Dugas	5-10	190	Sr.

### Defense

E	Derek Kennard	6-1	235	So.
E	Brant Hill	6-4	240	So.
T	Horacio Leyva	6-4	250	Sr.
T	Chris Barry	6-3	260	Fr.*
LB	Carl LaGrone	6-2	210	So.
LB	Jorge Cordova	6-2	235	So.
LB	Daryl Towns	6-0	212	So.
ROV	Humphrey Garrett	5-9	185	So.
CB	Domonic Cruz	5-9	180	Jr.
FS	Ronnie Hardiman	6-0	170	So.
CB	Leondre Lewis	5-10	165	So.

### Special Teams

K	Ray Sanchez	5-9	170	Sr.
P	Derek Jones	6-3	210	So.

*Returning starters in bold \* Redshirt*



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Conference rank **11****Sun Belt****Middle Tennessee is class of new league**

SCOUTING/TEAM REPORTS BY CHIP CIRILLO, THE TENNESSEAN

Everything is new in the Sun Belt Conference. Arkansas State, Idaho, New Mexico State and North Texas are Big West refugees. Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana-Monroe and Middle Tennessee State were independents last season. Those seven schools will begin the first season of competition in Division I-A's newest football league this fall. **Ascending:** Middle Tennessee State. MTSU returns most of its skill players from a team that finished 6-5 and ranked 16th nationally in total offense last season.

**Descending:** Arkansas State, Louisiana-Monroe and Louisiana-Lafayette. All three went 1-10 last fall, and tough nonconference slates will make things difficult again in 2001.

**Best matchup:** The October 6 showdown between MTSU and Idaho in Murfreesboro, Tenn., might decide the league title. MTSU boasts the Sun Belt's top running back in Dwone Hicks; Idaho counters with the conference's best passer in John Welsh.

**Ugliest matchup:** Louisiana-Monroe was mauled last season by Tennessee, 70-3. The Indians' September 8 date against Florida at The Swamp could be worse.

**Upset of the year:** A five-touchdown outburst in a loss at Mississippi State last year makes MTSU believe it can knock off an SEC team; it will open its season at Vanderbilt.

**Most overrated:** Arkansas State RB Jonathan Adams was a 1,000-yard back last season, but he rushed for just six touchdowns.

**Most underrated:** MTSU's Tyrone Calico, who has been overshadowed by fellow wideout Kendall Newson, caught 47 passes for 752 yards last season.

**Best coaching staff:** MTSU coach Andy McCollum is regarded as an outstanding recruiter, and his self-confidence rubs off on his players. His offensive coordinator, Larry Fedora, has proved that he can move the football against just about anybody.

**Coach on the hot seat:** After compiling an 8-25 record in three seasons, North Texas' Darrell Dickey might have to win five or six games this fall to keep the pressure off. A nonleague schedule that includes Oklahoma, TCU and Arkansas does him no favors.

**Best bets:** MTSU will edge Idaho for a trip to the New Orleans Bowl. ... Look for Welsh to emerge as the league's offensive player of the year just ahead of Hicks.

**ALL-LEAGUE****Offense**

Pos.	Name, School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Kendall Newson, Middle Tenn.	6-2	181	Sr.
WR	Chris Lacy, Idaho	6-0	183	Sr.
TE	Geoff Franks, Idaho	6-4	246	Sr.
T	Brandon Westbrook, Middle Tenn.	6-6	285	So.
T	Garry Johnson, Arkansas State	6-4	206	Jr.
G	Nick Zuniga, North Texas	6-3	319	So.
G	Tony Wragge, New Mexico St.	6-3	305	Sr.
C	Joel Barker, Idaho	6-4	273	Sr.
QB	John Welsh, Idaho	6-2	213	Sr.
RB	Dwone Hicks, Middle Tenn.	5-11	218	Jr.
RB	Jonathan Adams, Arkansas St.	6-0	217	Sr.

**Defense**

E	Tanaka Scott, Middle Tenn.	6-2	266	Sr.
E	Derrick Marshall, La.-Lafayette	6-3	260	Sr.
T	Wil Beck, Idaho	6-2	310	Sr.
T	Walter Sampson, La.-Lafayette	6-3	280	Jr.
LB	D'Wayne Taylor, New Mexico St.	6-0	195	Sr.
LB	Brad Kassell, North Texas	6-3	241	Sr.
LB	Brad Rice, Idaho	6-1	211	Sr.
CB	Seneca Lee, La.-Monroe	5-11	170	So.
CB	Don McGee, North Texas	5-11	190	Jr.
S	Dedrick Buckles, La.-Monroe	5-11	215	Sr.
S	Corey Paul, New Mexico St.	5-8	170	Sr.

**Specialists**

K	Brian Kelly, Middle Tenn.	6-0	168	So.
P	Jason Ball, North Texas	5-7	160	Sr.
KR	Ty Jackson, North Texas	5-6	171	So.

**Players of the year**

**Offense:** John Welsh, QB, Idaho  
**Defense:** Brad Kassell, LB, North Texas

**Newcomers of the year**

**Offense:** David Akers, WR, Idaho  
**Defense:** Reginald Everett, LB, Arkansas State

**1 Middle Tennessee****National Rank**  
**61****Coach:** Andy McCollum (9-13, 2 seasons)**2000 record:** 6-5**Site:** Murfreesboro, Tenn.**Stadium:** Johnny Floyd (grass, 30,788)**Last league title won:** None**Website:**

www.goblueraiders.com

**Schedule**

A30—at Vanderbilt  
 S8—Troy State  
 S22—at La.-Monroe  
 S29—at La.-Lafayette  
 O6—Idaho  
 O13—at North Texas  
 O20—at Mississippi  
 O27—New Mexico State  
 N3—Arkansas State  
 N10—at LSU  
 N17—Connecticut

**Offensive philosophy:** Middle Tennessee runs a no-huddle offense that uses four wide receivers and one running back in most of its sets.

The Blue Raiders broke the 40-point barrier six times last fall and scored 35 in a loss at Mississippi State. The team ranked 16th nationally in total offense with an average of 433.6 yards per game. The Blue Raiders try to wear teams down with their pace and play a physical style.

**Offensive stars:** TB Dwone Hicks, a junior with power and speed, is the heart of the offense. Last season, he ranked 15th nationally with 1,277 yards and scored 21 touchdowns. The Blue Raiders have one of the country's top receiving tandems in Kendall Newson (74 receptions, 945 yards, five touchdowns last year) and Tyrone Calico (47 receptions, 752 yards, three touchdowns).

**Offensive concerns:** The Blue Raiders must replace four starting linemen who had a lot to do with last year's success. The team signed five junior college linemen who could provide a quick fix. The new line might be bigger and more athletic, but it usually takes time to create good chemistry.

**Defensive philosophy:** The team is switching from a 3-4 front to a 4-3 under first-year coordinator Steve Davis, who averaged nine wins a year with the 4-3 during his last seven years as a coach.

**Defensive stars:** DBs Kareem Bland and Jykine Bradley anchor the secondary, and DE Tanaka Scott is the cornerstone of the line.

**Defensive concerns:** The team must improve in all areas—line, linebackers and secondary. The Blue Raiders' latest recruiting class has better size and speed, but the latter still is lacking.

**Special teams:** K Brian Kelly and P Robert Billings, both sophomores, return. Kelly was 11-for-13 on field-goal attempts, and Billings punted for a 35.7 average.

**Coaching staff:** Andy McCollum's philosophy is straightforward: Play hard and force the action. The Raiders press at every turn on the field, with four- and five-wide sets and a blitzing defense.

**Bottom line:** The team should win the first Sun Belt title unless the new offensive line fails to develop.

**PROJECTED STARTERS****Offense**

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Tyrone Calico	6-4	215	Jr.
T	Brandon Westbrook	6-6	285	So.
G	Jonathan Barry	6-2	310	Sr.
C	Glen Elarbee	6-2	260	Jr.
G	Kevin Pascoe	6-3	295	Jr.
T	David Coy	6-4	308	Jr.
TE	Lucas Frost	6-3	262	Jr.
WR	David Youell	5-11	179	Jr.
WR	Kendall Newson	6-2	181	Sr.
QB	Wes Counts	6-1	187	Sr.
RB	Dwone Hicks	5-11	218	Jr.

**Defense**

E	Tanaka Scott	6-2	266	Sr.
E	Anthony Hood	6-2	235	Sr.
T	Jerry Vanderpool	6-3	304	So.
T	Curtis Daniely	6-5	256	Jr.
ILB	Scotty Brown	6-2	222	Sr.
ILB	Louis Kemp	5-8	208	Sr.
OLB	Michael Woods	6-1	196	So.
CB	Jykine Bradley	5-10	180	Sr.
SS	Kareem Bland	6-1	186	Jr.
FS	Brandon Lynch	6-0	172	So.
CB	Muhammad Rashada	5-11	170	So.

**Special Teams**

K	Brian Kelly	6-0	168	So.
P	Robert Billings	6-0	197	So.

Returning starters in bold



## 2. Idaho

**Offense:** Idaho doesn't have to worry about moving the football after ranking eighth nationally in total offense with an average of 453.2 yards per game last season. Vandals QB John Welsh ranked eighth nationally in passing, throwing for 3,171 yards and 22 touchdowns last year. The senior returns along with most of the skill players—including Chris Lacy, last year's leading wide receiver—but most of the offensive line starters don't return.

**Defense:** Idaho struggled on defense last year, giving up an average of 42.7 points in its six losses. However, second-year coach Tom Cable thinks defense might be the most improved area on this year's team.

**Bottom line:** The Vandals will finish second in the Sun Belt unless they can win at Middle Tennessee on October 6.

### Schedule

A30—Washington State  
S8—at Arizona  
S15—at Montana  
S22—at Washington  
S29—Boise State  
O6—at Middle Tennessee State  
O13—at New Mexico State  
O20—Louisiana-Lafayette  
O27—at Arkansas State  
N3—Louisiana-Monroe  
N17—North Texas

NATIONAL  
RANK  
69

## 3. New Mexico State

**Offense:** The Aggies were one of the nation's top seven rushing teams in each of the last two seasons, but I-back Chris Barnes, who ran for 1,131 yards last year, doesn't return. Kenton Keith should continue the team's tradition after rushing for 876 yards last fall. QB K.C. Enzinger, who threw for 1,457 yards and 15 touchdowns last season, also will be back.

**Defense:** Senior LB D'Wayne Taylor led the team in tackles the past two seasons, and he will be glad to see the return of CB Corey Paul, who missed last year with a fractured ankle.

**Bottom line:** New Mexico State doesn't have much tradition, with only three winning seasons during the past 32 years, but the Aggies should be able to edge North Texas for third in the Sun Belt.

### Schedule

A23—at Louisville  
S1—at Texas  
S8—Oregon State  
S15—at New Mexico  
S22—at Kansas State  
S29—at Louisiana-Monroe  
O6—at Tulsa  
O13—Idaho  
O27—at Middle Tennessee  
N3—North Texas  
N10—Arkansas State  
N17—at Louisiana-Lafayette

NATIONAL  
RANK  
73

## 4. North Texas

**Offense:** Ja'Quay Wilburn, North Texas' all-time leading rusher with 3,120 career yards, left a big void at tailback when he used up his eligibility last season. Junior college transfer Kevin Galbreath figures to be Wilburn's replacement, and sophomore Scott Hall returns as the starting quarterback. The Mean Green has six returning offensive starters, and four of them are offensive linemen.

**Defense:** MLB Brad Kassell (115 tackles, four interceptions, four forced fumbles last season) is the cornerstone on defense. He should get plenty of help from freshman S Jonas Buckles.

**Bottom line:** The Mean Green's first four games are against teams that went to bowl games last season. North Texas should finish in the middle of the Sun Belt pack.

### Schedule

S1—Texas Christian  
S8—at Oklahoma  
S15—at Arkansas  
S22—Texas Tech  
S29—at South Florida  
O6—at Louisiana-Monroe  
O13—Middle Tennessee  
O20—Arkansas State  
N3—at New Mexico State  
N10—Louisiana-Lafayette  
N17—at Idaho

NATIONAL  
RANK  
102

## 5. La.-Lafayette

**Offense:** The Ragin' Cajuns ranked 105th nationally in total offense (285 ypg) and scoring (15.6 ppg) last season, but things might be better this fall with the tandem of WRs Marcus Wilridge and Nick Dugas. Wilridge is one of the top receivers in school history with 75 career catches for 1,028 yards, and Dugas is a talented playmaker.

**Defense:** Ten starters return, making this the team's strength. FS Kyries Hebert was the team's leading tackler the last two seasons, and CB Charles Tillman ranked eighth nationally with six interceptions last year.

**Bottom line:** The Ragin' Cajuns have a tougher schedule this season—with road games at Minnesota and Arizona State—but they should be improved enough to take fifth in the Sun Belt.

### Schedule

S1—Nicholls State  
S8—at Minnesota  
S15—at Central Florida  
S22—Southern Mississippi  
S29—Middle Tennessee  
O6—at Arizona State  
O13—at Arkansas State  
O20—at Idaho  
O27—Louisiana-Monroe  
N10—at North Texas  
N17—New Mexico State

NATIONAL  
RANK  
105

## 6. La.-Monroe

**Offense:** The Indians ranked last nationally in scoring (8.73 ppg) and rushing (57.5 ypg) last fall. First-year offensive coordinator Stan Humphries, the quarterback on Louisiana-Monroe's 1987 Division I-AA national champion team who went on to play in the NFL, has switched from a spread offense to a one-back set to generate a running game. QB Andy Chance, who missed five games with two concussions last year, returns, bolstered by the arrival of WR John Floyd, a transfer from Southern Mississippi who was the Liberty Bowl MVP two years ago.

**Defense:** FS Dedrick Buckles anchors the Indians' 4-2-5 defense, an unusual formation the Indians have used for years.

**Bottom line:** Louisiana-Monroe will be better, but a sixth-place conference finish might be all the Indians can hope for.

### Schedule

S1—Sam Houston  
S8—at Florida  
S15—at Cincinnati  
S22—Middle Tennessee  
S29—New Mexico State  
O6—North Texas  
O20—at Central Florida  
O27—at Louisiana-Lafayette  
N3—at Idaho  
N10—Troy State  
N17—at Arkansas State

NATIONAL  
RANK  
113

## 7. Arkansas State

**Offense:** Redshirt freshman Brian Gauthreaux has the unenviable task of replacing QB Cleo Lemon, who finished as Arkansas State's all-time leading passer with 7,706 career yards. TB Jonathan Adams, the school's first Parade All-American signee, returns for his senior year after rushing for 1,004 yards and six touchdowns last year. He had four 100-yard rushing games last season.

**Defense:** The Indians ranked 111th out of 114 Division I-A teams in total defense last season, giving up an average of 454 yards per game. Junior college transfer Reginald Everett, a redshirt freshman at Syracuse in 1999, will add some badly needed help at linebacker.

**Bottom line:** The Indians are likely to finish in the Sun Belt basement unless they make great strides on defense.

### Schedule

S1—at Georgia  
S8—at Baylor  
S15—Nicholls State  
S22—Jacksonville State  
O6—Mississippi  
O13—Louisiana-Lafayette  
O20—at North Texas  
O27—Idaho  
N3—at Middle Tennessee State  
N10—at New Mexico State  
N17—Louisiana-Monroe

NATIONAL  
RANK  
114



# 1 Notre Dame

**National Rank**  
**16**

**Coach:** Bob Davie (30-19, 4 years)  
**Offensive coordinator:** Kevin Rogers (3rd season)  
**Defensive coordinator:** Greg Mattison (5th season)  
**Offensive scheme:** Multiple  
**Defensive scheme:** 4-3  
**Starters lost:** 9  
**Lettermen lost:** 19  
**Lettermen returning:** 49  
**Site:** South Bend, Ind.  
**Stadium:** Notre Dame (grass, 80,012)  
**Last time didn't go to bowl:** 1999.  
**2000 TSN preseason rank:** 22  
**2000 record:** 9-3 (lost to Oregon State in Fiesta Bowl)  
**Website:** und.fansonly.com

## 2000 Results

Texas A&M, W, 24-10  
Nebraska, L, 27-24  
Purdue, W, 23-21  
at Michigan State, L, 27-21  
Stanford, W, 20-14  
vs. Navy, W, 45-14  
at West Virginia, W, 42-28  
Air Force, W, 34-31  
Boston College, W, 28-16  
at Rutgers, W, 45-17  
at USC, W, 38-21  
Oregon State, L, 41-9

## Schedule

**S8—at Nebraska**  
S15—at Purdue  
S22—Michigan State  
S29—at Texas A&M  
O6—Pittsburgh  
O13—West Virginia  
O20—USC  
O27—at Boston College  
N3—Tennessee  
N17—Navy  
N24—at Stanford

## Game of the year

**Sept. 8—at Nebraska**  
It may be the Irish's first game, but it will be contest No. 3 for the Cornhuskers. We'll learn right away if this year's edition of the Irish is ready to play against the top schools or is still a step behind. The Irish let last year's game at South Bend get away in overtime. Not many teams go into Lincoln and come away with a big win.

## Tom Dienhart's Report Card

The biggest surprise might be the receiving corps. The front seven on defense will be the best of the Bob Davie era.

**Offensive backfield:** ★★★★★  
**Receivers:** ★★★  
**Offensive line:** ★★★  
**Defensive line:** ★★★★★  
**Linebackers:** ★★★  
**Secondary:** ★★

*Key: based on a four-star system*

## DEPTH CHART

### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
WR	Javin Hunter	6-0	190	Sr.
	Omar Jenkins	6-1	187	So.
T	Jordan Black	6-6	308	Sr.
	Brennan Curtin	6-8	315	Jr.
G	Sean Mahan	6-3	290	Sr.
	Ryan Gillis	6-3	300	Jr.
C	Jeff Faine	6-3	290	Jr.
	J.W. Jordan	6-1	269	Sr.
G	Ryan Scarole	6-5	310	Sr.
	Sean Milligan	6-4	286	Jr.
T	Kurt Vollers	6-7	307	Sr.
	John Teasdale	6-5	305	Sr.
TE	John Owens	6-3	260	Sr.
	Gary Godsey	6-7	260	Jr.
WR	David Givens	6-3	214	Sr.
	Arnaz Battle	6-1	221	Sr.
QB	Matt LoVecchio	6-4	194	So.
	Carlyle Holiday	6-3	203	So.
RB	Julius Jones	5-10	201	Jr.
	Tony Fisher	6-2	225	Sr.
FB	Tom Lopienski	6-1	236	Sr.
	Jason Murray	6-1	256	Sr.

### Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
E	Anthony Weaver	6-3	276	Sr.
	Darrell Campbell	6-4	285	Jr.
NG	Cedric Hilliard	6-2	294	Jr.
	Andy Wisne	6-3	279	Sr.
T	Darrell Campbell	6-4	285	Jr.
	Jason Halvorson	6-2	230	Jr.
E	Grant Irons	6-5	275	Sr.
	Ryan Roberts	6-2	254	Sr.
ILB	Tyreo Harrison	6-2	240	Sr.
	Courtney Watson	6-1	223	Jr.
ILB	Mike Goolsby	6-3	236	So.
	Carlos Pierre-Antoine	6-3	240	Sr.
OLB	Rocky Boiman	6-4	239	Sr.
	Jerome Collins	6-4	231	So.
CB	Shane Walton	5-11	186	Sr.
	Clifford Jefferson	5-9	175	Sr.
SS	Ron Israel	6-1	208	Sr.
	Gerome Sapp	6-0	213	Jr.
FS	Glenn Earl	6-1	213	Jr.
	Donald Dykes	5-11	197	Sr.
CB	Vontez Duff	5-11	186	So.
	Jason Beckstrom	5-10	190	Jr.

### Special Teams

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
K	Nick Setta	5-11	169	Jr.
P	Joey Hildbold	5-10	185	Jr.

*Returning starters in bold*

**Offensive philosophy:** Last year at this time, Notre Dame was making the commitment to the option, which was suited to the talents of QB Arnaz Battle. Now, with Battle moved to receiver (the fallout from last year's broken wrist), Notre Dame will be more balanced and the option is expected to disappear. The Fighting Irish still want to run—especially with three talented tailbacks—but coach Bob Davie recognizes that their passing must improve to avoid predictability. Expect Notre Dame to use, like most teams, a spread-the-field, short-passing offense, with occasional deep throws designed to open running lanes.

**Offensive stars:** Notre Dame has the kind of backfield depth usually associated with Oklahoma's wishbone teams of the 1970s. TBs Julius Jones, Tony Fisher and Terrance Howard took turns having big games last year, and each has the ability to be a feature back. QB Matt LoVecchio showed promise last year and ought to hold off challenges from fellow sophomores Jared Clark and Carlyle Holiday. There is good depth at receiver with the versatile Battle plus Javin Hunter, David Givens and Lorenzo Crawford. C Jeff Faine has star potential.

**Offensive concerns:** LoVecchio was careful with the football last year (one interception), but he wasn't much of a threat to get it downfield. That must change. He doesn't have to be a bombs-away type, but he needs to keep developing so Notre Dame can open up its offense. It would be nice to see if Holiday or Clark could handle the job, because each has tremendous skills, but the team's early schedule (at Nebraska, at Purdue, Michigan State, at Texas A&M) is not conducive to experimentation. The Fighting Irish need G Sean Mahan and T John Teasdale to step up quickly, although each has a history of injuries. The three tailbacks got along fine while sharing the duties last year, but it isn't easy to maintain such an esprit de corps. If any jealousy seeps in, then last year's backfield harmony will be wrecked.

**Defensive philosophy:** The Irish are getting closer to their stated mission of being an attacking unit. Their goal will not be accomplished, however, until they have defensive backs capable of covering receivers man-to-man, which will free up Notre Dame's front seven. That might happen this year, thanks to additional speed and depth in the secondary. The Irish use a 4-3 scheme that at times looks like a 3-4, thanks to the use of a "rush" end, who can play standing up or down in a stance.

**Defensive stars:** The Irish might have two of the nation's better ends, provided Grant Irons is completely recovered from a shoulder injury and is ready to make good on his substantial potential.

Anthony Weaver was impressive last year, and Notre Dame fans expect to see more of the same. Davie is excited about the defensive backs, especially SS Ron Israel and CB Shane Walton, but they could be surpassed in status by SS Gerome Sapp and speedy CB Vontez Duff, both of whom have considerable potential. OLB Rocky Boiman is a big producer and has an engine that rarely downshifts.

**Defensive concerns:** The Irish need somebody to emerge in the middle, and that might be NG Cedric Hilliard, who arrived amid considerable fanfare but has yet to become the kind of face-smashing run-stopper all good defenses need. Opponents gained 3.7 yards per rush last year against Notre Dame—not bad by the Irish, but not championship-caliber, either. Were Hilliard to develop, things could be much better, particularly if Boiman and Irons are at full capacity on the outside. If Hilliard doesn't play well, there might be big problems, because the Irish lost ILB Anthony Denman, last year's defensive MVP. ILBs Courtney Watson and Mike Goolsby saw limited action last year and must improve. The Irish will also be counting on a big step up from CB Jason Beckstrom, who was hampered by an injured shoulder last year.

**Special teams:** The Irish were pretty strong in this department last year and could be top-notch again, provided they address a couple

## TSNumber

**8**

The turnovers Notre Dame committed last year, an NCAA record-low. The Irish threw only four interceptions and lost only four fumbles. Those numbers are even more impressive when you consider Notre Dame started true freshman QB Matt LoVecchio for most of the season after Arnaz Battle suffered a season-ending injury in a September 9 loss to Nebraska.



areas. The first is the return game, which lost Joey Getherall, who averaged 16.3 yards on punt returns last year and scored twice. Davie plans to use Battle, Duff, Jones, Hunter and Givens as return men. That group has potential. K Nick Setta had his moments, like when he nailed a field goal at the gun to bump off Purdue, but he was only 8-of-14 for the season and didn't demonstrate outstanding range. He doesn't have to be Sebastian Janikowski, but Setta has to be more accurate. P Joey Hildbold won't average 45 yards a kick, but he'll get good hang time. Last year, Notre Dame set a school record for fewest return yards allowed per kick, a testament to Hildbold and the team's increased talent and speed on the coverage units.

**Coaching staff:** The Irish bring back the nucleus of their staff, with a couple of significant exceptions. Urban Meyer—last year's receivers coach—took over as head coach at Bowling Green, and Bob Chmiel is out as coordinator of football operations. Chmiel, who came to South Bend as a recruiting coordinator under Lou Holtz, was responsible for top-ranked classes at two different schools (the other was Michigan). Coordinators Kevin Rogers (offense) and Greg Mattison (defense) return. Each is under pressure to guide his unit to a higher level of production.

**Bottom line:** There was plenty of speculating about Davie's future a year ago. Nine triumphs and a \$13 million BCS payout later, Davie has a five-year extension and some breathing room. Some. The hideous, 41-9 loss to Oregon State in the Fiesta Bowl led to speculation that the Irish were the beneficiaries of a schedule that looked harder than it *actually* was and a surfeit of good fortune. Maybe. It's also possible—and quite likely—that Davie is building Notre Dame into a strong team, adding pieces that both can play and satisfy the school's increasingly stubborn admissions department. So when Davie says how excited he is about coaching this year's team, it isn't just because he has some job security. Notre Dame should be faster and more aggressive on defense, and, if LoVecchio continues his development, a more balanced and dangerous offensive team. That doesn't mean a run to the top of the BCS standings is likely. Last year's schedule may have looked



#### STEADY AS A ROCK:

Boiman is a load to handle from his outside linebacker slot. But for the Irish to succeed, he will need to get some help from the middle of the defense.

tough. This year's is brutal. The Irish play three of their first four on the road, with stops at Nebraska and Texas A&M the toughest. Five other bowl teams appear on the slate, including Tennessee, which visits South Bend in early November. It's a good thing Davie has that extension, because it's possible Notre Dame could be a better team than last year's outfit and win just seven or eight games.



## 2. Central Florida

**Offense:** QB Ryan Schneider is an accurate passer who produces big yards. He'll throw to a solid group of receivers, but there is no proven gamebreaker. Redshirt freshman TB Alex Haynes was impressive in spring drills, but he and his backfield mates will run behind a line that must replace three starters.

**Defense:** The Golden Knights' front seven will be formidable. MLB Tito Rodriguez is a tackling machine, and T Josh McKibben made 14 stops behind the line in 2000. There isn't the same certainty in the secondary, although CB Travis Fisher and FS Ricot Joseph were strong last year.

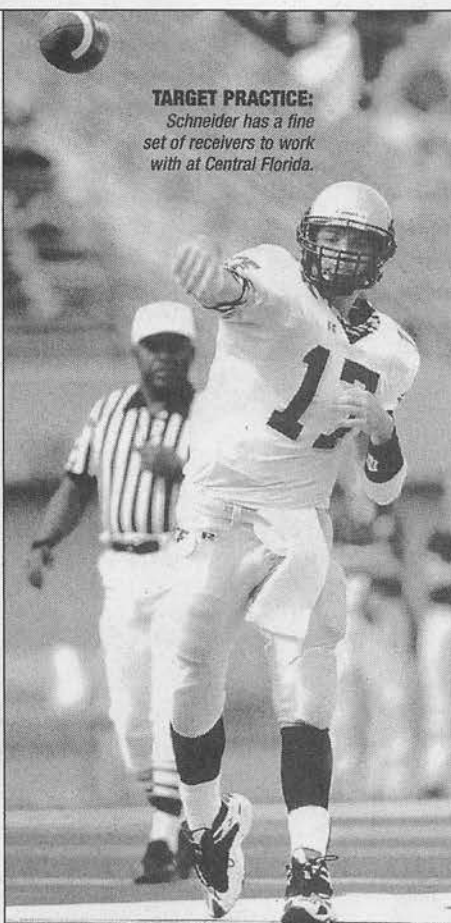
**Bottom line:** UCF continues to make a strong pitch for conference inclusion, but a slate that includes trips to Clemson, Syracuse and Virginia Tech doesn't help. The Knights will score but need a tough, tough defense to hang with the big fellas.

### Schedule

S1—at Clemson  
S8—at Syracuse  
S15—Louisiana-Lafayette  
S22—at Tulane  
S29—at Virginia Tech  
O6—Alabama-Birmingham  
O13—Liberty  
O20—Louisiana-Monroe  
O27—at Utah State  
N3—Akron  
N10—at Arkansas

**NATIONAL  
RANK  
89**

PAUL CHAMPMAN / CENTRAL FLORIDA



**TARGET PRACTICE:**  
Schneider has a fine  
set of receivers to work  
with at Central Florida.

## 3. Utah State

**Offense:** The Aggies will rely heavily on their Big Two—RB Emmett White, who led the nation in all-purpose yardage last season, and QB Jose Fuentes, who is productive but at times inaccurate. USU likes to spread the field with multiple-receiver sets, and it has experience at wideout. The line returns three starters but no star.

**Defense:** Foes feasted on the Aggies' front seven last year, so it is imperative that E Nate Putnam, T Jorge Tapia and MLB Tony Newson step up. Four starters return in the secondary, led by CB Ade Jimoh.

**Bottom line:** Utah State could have joined the Sun Belt Conference after the Big West died, but school president Kermit Hall wanted the program to be an independent. The Aggies could win five or six games, but with no conference home or bowl tie-in, theirs will be a difficult, nomadic existence in 2001.

### Schedule

S1—at Utah  
S8—at LSU  
S15—at Fresno State  
S22—Wyoming  
S29—Oregon  
O5—at BYU  
O20—Idaho State  
O27—Central Florida  
N10—at Connecticut  
N17—Weber State  
N24—at South Florida

**NATIONAL  
RANK  
91**

## 4. Navy

**Offense:** The return of QB Brian Madden from a knee injury that sidelined him for all of 2000 is big news. He is the perfect triggerman for new coordinator Mark Hudspeth's flexbone attack, but he'll need help. FB Raheem Lambert should provide some if healthy. Five new starters on the line and a host of questions at slotback and receiver could mean trouble.

**Defense:** Rick Lantz takes over coordinator duties for a unit that returns many veterans from last season's awful group. Linebacker should be a strong area, thanks to Ryan Hamilton and Jake Bowen, and the line has some potential. But the secondary needs a big boost.

**Bottom line:** Coach Charlie Weatherbie needs to deliver wins, having had just nine in the past three seasons. A difficult slate won't help, but Madden's return will.

### Schedule

A30—at Temple  
S8—Georgia Tech  
S15—at Northwestern  
S22—Boston College  
O6—Air Force  
O13—Rice  
O20—at Rutgers  
O27—at Toledo  
N10—Tulane  
N17—at Notre Dame  
D1—Army\*  
\*at Philadelphia

**NATIONAL  
RANK  
97**

## 5. South Florida

**Offense:** QB Marquel Blackwell is the heart and soul of the offense and a threat to throw or pass, but he has little proven help. WR DeAndrew Rubin has promise, and the Bulls are excited about RB Clenton Crossley's potential. C Jimmy Fitts anchors a line that will need time to jell.

**Defense:** Seven starters are gone, but the newcomers are more talented than their predecessors. The linebacking corps should be the strength, thanks in large part to Kawicka Mitchell, but there will be four new faces in the secondary. The line, meanwhile, returns platoon starters at end in Greg Walls and Lee Roy Selmon.

**Bottom line:** At USF, which in 2003 will join Conference USA, the infrastructure is in place and the talent level is rising. A slate that includes eight I-A foes will be a good test for a program that has a bright future but is now feeling growing pains.

### Schedule

A30—at Northern Illinois  
S8—at Pittsburgh  
S15—Southern Utah  
S22—at Memphis  
S29—North Texas  
O6—at Utah  
O13—Connecticut  
O27—Liberty  
N3—Houston  
N10—Western Illinois  
N24—Utah State

**NATIONAL  
RANK  
115**

## 6. Connecticut

**Offense:** QB Ryan Tracey, who looked good last year until he tore a knee ligament, returns, but his top two receivers are gone. Worse still, the Huskies have no consistent ground threat—last season's attack produced just 907 yards. Redshirt freshman TB Chris Bellamy might help.

**Defense:** The Huskies allowed 33.5 points and 422.9 yards per game in 2000. New coordinator Kent Briggs promises a change for the better. One wrinkle has Uyi Osunde moving from outside linebacker to rush end. CB Roy Hopkins returns from a knee injury to fortify what was a generous secondary.

**Bottom line:** Connecticut's second year as a I-A program will be better than its debut, but youth (nearly 75 percent of the roster are freshmen and sophomores) and inferior talent will hold the Huskies to no more than five wins.

### Schedule

S1—at Virginia Tech  
S8—Eastern Washington  
S15—at Temple  
S22—Buffalo  
S29—at Rutgers  
O6—Eastern Michigan  
O13—at South Florida  
O27—Ball State  
N3—at Cincinnati  
N10—Utah State  
N17—at Middle Tennessee

**NATIONAL  
RANK  
116**



# Top 25 prospects for 2002

**Christian Olsen—QB, 6-4, 215, 4.7 (40 speed), Woodland Hills, N.J.**  
Olsen is the early pick for the top quarterback on the East Coast. He's primarily a pocket passer, yet he has adequate mobility. He's probably the best quarterback to call New Jersey home since Texas starter Chris Simms walked the halls of Ramapo High three years ago. Miami, Rutgers, Duke, Boston College, Northwestern and Penn State are the early leaders for Olsen.

**Tyler Palko—QB, 6-2, 210, 4.58 West Allegheny (Pa.)/Imperial**  
Is there anything Palko can't do? He's an amazing offensive prospect, yet he also gets things done on defense. You name an honor and Palko either won it last season or sometime during his career. A two-time first-team all-state selection, along with winning player of the year honors for the past two years from both the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review* and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, he already has scholarship offers from numerous schools across the country. He lists Pittsburgh, Penn State, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio State and Iowa as his favorites.

**Joe Tereshinski—QB, 6-3, 200, 4.6 Athens (Ga.)/Athens Academy**  
Tereshinski's father has been around the Georgia program for years as the Bulldogs' strength coach. And it's clear "Joe T," as he's known, has picked up quite a bit from his father along the way. The younger Tereshinski is the early pick for the top quarterback in the South and has offers from teams all over the region. But one would think that the team from Athens has the inside track.

**Vincent Young—QB, 6-5, 205, 4.4 Houston/Madison**  
The righthanded Young is one of those special prospects. If things don't work out at quarterback (which is where he'd prefer to play), he could shift to receiver and use his amazing size, skill and speed there. But he's such an outstanding field general, it'd be tough imagining him at any position other than behind center. Young lists Texas, Florida State and LSU as his top three schools.

**Justin Zwick—QB, 6-4, 210, 4.67 Massillon (Ohio)/Washington**  
Many experts list Zwick as the top quarterback in the nation. And it's easy to see that he's at least as talented as any other prospect at the position. Zwick has good size and field of vision and a rifle arm, not to mention he comes from one of the most storied high school football programs of all time. This looks like it's going to be a classic Big Ten battle with Ohio State and Michigan sitting at the top of his early list.

**Lorenzo Booker—RB, 5-11, 170, 4.4 Ventura (Calif.)/St. Bonaventure**  
Booker is silky smooth. He reminds several college coaches of Colorado starter Marcus Houston when Houston was coming out of Denver's Jefferson High two years ago. Booker might not have the size of Houston, but he has the speed, cut-back ability and the long stride that made

Houston one of the top backs in the nation two years ago.

**Ciattrick Fason—RB, 6-1, 210, 4.4 Jacksonville (Fla.)/Fletcher**  
Fletcher coach Joe Reynolds uses the word "warrior" to describe Fason, a three-year starter. In fact, Reynolds is so confident in the abilities of Fason that he says he wouldn't trade Fason for another high school player in the nation. "I've coached two NFL players and one Parade All-American, and Ciattrick Fason is better than all three of them put together," Reynolds says. "The only player I'd rather have than him at the college level is Michael Vick." Fason ended the recruiting process early by committing to Florida.

**Ryan Moore—WR, 6-4, 190, 4.4 Orlando/Dr. Phillips**  
Folks in Florida have been talking about Moore for three years. You name the adjective to describe amazing receivers, and it could apply in Moore's case because he's tall, fast, sure-handed and a game-breaker. His college choice likely will come down to the Sunshine State's big three—Florida, Florida State and Miami.

**Mario Raley—WR, 6-2, 195, 4.4 Charlotte/Independence**  
Raley rivals Ryan Moore when it comes to discussions about the top receiver prospect in the nation. Raley has put up amazing statistics during his prep career and has the ideal size that college coaches look for. Because the state of North Carolina is loaded with many talented prospects this season, the recruiting battles will be fierce. The pursuit of Raley might develop into one of the hottest battles in the nation.

**Mercedes Lewis—TE, 6-6, 235, 4.7 Long Beach (Calif.)/Poly**  
With a name like Mercedes, you know Lewis has to be one of the best in the nation. He gets the early nod as the top tight end prospect. He has amazing size, is quick off the line and can shed defenders to make catches in space. He is staying out West with an early commitment to Bob Toledo and UCLA.

**Chris Felder—OL, 6-7, 285, 5.1 Oelwein, Iowa**  
As soon as signing day passed in Iowa, the talk quickly turned to Felder. He has the potential to be this season's Blake Larsen. Larsen, one of TSN's top five offensive linemen last season, ended up at Iowa. Felder is being pursued heavily by the Hawkeyes. He also is receiving interest from Iowa State, Nebraska, Michigan and Notre Dame, among others. Felder has great size and solid push off the line on the run.

**Shadu Moore—OL, 6-4, 295, 5.0 Paterson (N.J.)/Catholic**  
Fans of Syracuse, Miami (Fla.), Nebraska, Notre Dame, Ohio State and Penn State have been talking about the man-sized Moore for a couple of years—and for good reason. He has excellent lateral movement, gets off the ball with an explosive burst and can handle speedy defenders in pass-

blocking situations.

**Bryan Pickryl—DE, 6-5, 220, 4.5 Jenks, Okla.**  
Pickryl is the top player for the top team in Oklahoma. He has a great combination of frame, speed, playmaking ability and football savvy. On film, Pickryl always seems to find the football and take the right angle to make the crushing tackle. He is a key reason Jenks should be the favorite to win its sixth consecutive state championship. UCLA, Oklahoma, LSU, Texas A&M and Missouri already have offered Pickryl scholarships.

**Kedric Gholston—DT, 6-4, 285, 4.9 Tyrone (Ga.)/Sandy Creek**  
Many college coaches are calling Gholston the top player in Georgia for the Class of 2002. He plays end for his team because of his quickness off the ball, but his size and ability to shed blockers make him a natural for the interior line. He has offers from almost every major power in the Southeast.

**Marco Martin—DT, 6-4, 290, 4.8 Mesquite, Texas**  
This season Martin finally will spend most of his time on defense, where he will get to showcase his skills as a tackle full time. In years past, Martin was so athletic that he spent most of the time in the Mesquite backfield as a tailback. Yes, a 6-4, 290-pound tailback. He'll be one of the hottest targets in the Lone Star State for the Class of 2002. Texas, Texas A&M, Miami, Fla., and Nebraska top Martin's list of college choices.

**Quinn Pitcock—DT, 6-4, 295, 4.8 Piqua, Ohio**  
Pitcock is an amazing specimen physically and is expected to be one of the top five prospects in the Midwest. Ohio State, Michigan, Notre Dame and Tennessee are the early front-runners. Watch out for Ohio State because Pitcock is a high priority for Jim Tressel's new staff in Columbus.

**Kai Parham—LB, 6-3, 230, 4.6 Virginia Beach (Va.)/Princess Anne**  
Parham's performances the past two years at Nike training camps have proved he is one of the top athletes in the nation. Yet it's his on-field play that really makes him special. He has the aptitude and attitude for the game—he'll knock your socks off even in non-contact drills. His college list will be a who's who of the best in the game.

**Lawrence Pinson—LB, 6-2, 245, 4.5 Eagan, Minn.**  
Pinson already has offers on the table from Michigan, Notre Dame, Minnesota and many others. What makes his situation interesting is that Pinson most likely will be moving to Tulsa this summer. That might open the door for a lot of teams in the Big 12 and deep South. It might become even more interesting if Oklahoma gets into the mix because Pinson says he has always been a Sooners fan.

**Mike D'Andrea—LB, 6-3, 235, 4.53 Avon Lake, Ohio**  
When sculpting a perfect-looking line-backer, D'Andrea might be the ideal model.

D'Andrea has a 485-pound bench press, can dead-lift 550 pounds and run the 40-yard dash in 4.53 seconds. He looks like a Greek god, but he's more than just a good-looking prospect. D'Andrea flies from sideline to sideline, making plays all over the field. Ohio State is probably the team to beat, but Nebraska, Michigan, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Purdue and Tennessee also are in pursuit.

**Ricardo Hurley—LB, 6-3, 230, 4.6 Greenwood, S.C.**  
South Carolina has always been a hotbed for defensive standouts (think Courtney Brown), and Hurley is this year's version of an elite prospect. Hurley is chiseled with a body builder's frame. He moves extremely well, including laterally, and has a nose for the football. South Carolina and Clemson are expected to battle over him, but don't overlook Tennessee, Florida State and Georgia. \*

**Sammy Joseph—CB, 6-0, 180, 4.4 Marrero (La.)/Shaw**  
Shaw has been a football factory over the years, and coaches there are excited about Joseph's potential as one of the nation's best. Joseph has a great combination of size, speed and ballhawking skills. Look for a lot of the top teams in the SEC to pursue him.

**Eric McNeal—CB, 6-3, 190, 4.45 Gardena (Calif.)/Serra**  
Remember UCLA-bound Matt Ware from last year's recruiting class? Well, fans and coaches in California say McNeal is a Ware clone. McNeal can play a number of positions on both sides of the ball and makes play after play. He ended the recruiting process early by committing to his lifelong dream school: UCLA. That's what Ware did a year ago.

**Gerald Riggs Jr.—S, 5-11, 190, 4.4 Chattanooga (Tenn.)/Red Bank**  
Most analysts have Riggs listed as one of the top running back prospects, but on film he looks better suited for defensive back. That's where Riggs is more aggressive and uses his speed to make plays. Riggs knows he needs to work hard in the classroom. He will be one of the top recruits in the South.

**Vickiel Vaughn—S, 6-1, 185, 4.4 Plano (Texas)/West**  
Vaughn might not be a household name to some recruiting fans, but he soon should be. Vaughn flies all over the place making plays. And when he gets there, he gets there with a bad attitude. He might be the hardest hitter in the country.

**Pat Watkins—S, 6-4, 190, 4.4 Tallahassee (Fla.)/Lincoln**  
Watkins is the early pick for the top safety in the nation. With a resume of 126 solo tackles and the ability to cover the fastest receivers he faces, Watkins is a special prospect. Florida State, Georgia, Central Florida, Tennessee, Michigan, Georgia Tech, Clemson, Florida, South Carolina and Miami (Fla.) already have offered scholarships to Watkins.

alliancesports.com editor Bobby Burton covers recruiting for THE SPORTING NEWS



# Preseason prospects to watch

## Quarterbacks (13)

(listed alphabetically by position)

Maurice Avery—6-2, 190, 4.4 (40 speed), Atlanta/McNair  
Trent Edwards—6-5, 200, 4.7, Los Gatos, Calif.  
Reggie McNeal—6-2, 190, 4.4, Lufkin, Texas  
Mike Nixon—6-3, 200, 4.6, Phoenix/Sunny Slope  
Ben Olson—6-2, 195, 4.7, Thousand Oaks, Calif.  
Christian Olsen—6-4, 215, 4.7, Woodland Hills, N.J.  
Drew Olson—6-2, 195, 4.8, Piedmont, Calif.  
Tyler Palko—6-2, 210, 4.58, West Allegheny (Pa.)/Imperial  
Joe Tereshinski—6-3, 200, 4.6, Athens (Ga.)/Athens Academy  
Ken Topps—6-2, 190, 4.7, Shannon, Miss.  
Marcus Vick—6-1, 180, 4.4, Newport News (Va.)/Warrick  
Vincent Young—6-5, 205, 4.4, Houston/Madison  
Justin Zwick—6-4, 210, 4.67, Massillon (Ohio)/Washington

## Running backs (17)

Lorenzo Booker—5-11, 170, 4.4, Ventura (Calif.)/St. Bonaventure  
Brian Calhoun—5-11, 180, 4.4, Oak Creek, Wis.  
Maurice Clarett—6-1, 230, 4.5, Ft. Wayne (Ohio)/Warren Harding  
Herschel Dennis—5-11, 190, 4.4, Long Beach (Calif.)/Poly  
Ciatrick Fason—6-1, 210, 4.4, Jacksonville (Fla.)/Fletcher  
Devin Hester—5-10, 168, 4.33, Suncoast (Fla.)/Riviera  
Skylor Green—5-10, 180, 4.3, Higgins, La.  
Albert Hardy—5-11, 223, 4.5, Galena Park, Texas  
Steve Hicks—6-3, 215, 4.5, Omaha (Neb.)/Creighton Prep  
David Horne—5-11, 175, 4.4, Omaha (Neb.)/Central  
Drushaun Humphrey—5-11, 200, 4.4, Toledo (Ohio)/Rogers  
Jerious Norwood—6-1, 200, 4.5, Brandon, Miss.  
Dedric Poole—5-11, 190, 4.4, Little Rock (Ark.)/Central  
Nicholas Turner—5-11, 190, 4.3, Atlanta/Washington  
Justin Vincent—6-0, 205, 4.4, Lake Charles (La.)/Barbe  
Mario Whitney—6-0, 190, 4.4, Jackson, Mo.  
J.R. Zwierzynski—6-3, 220, 4.5, Joliet (Ill.)/Catholic

## Receivers (18)

Jason Avant—6-0, 190, 4.4, Chicago/Carver  
Chris Baker—6-1, 172, 4.37, Osceola, Ark.  
Charles Ben—6-0, 185, 4.4, St. Matthews (S.C.)/Calhoun County  
Ian Firestone—6-1, 185, 4.45, West Lawn (Pa.)/Wilson  
Tom Guardi—6-2, 190, 4.5, Riverside (Ill.)/Brookfield  
Terrance Holmes—6-0, 178, 4.4, Glassboro, N.J.  
Marquis Johnson—6-3, 190, 4.4, Champaign (Ill.)/Centennial  
Mark LeFlore—6-1, 187, 4.4, Omaha (Neb.)/Central  
Wali Lundy—6-0, 195, 4.4, Delran (N.J.)/Holy Cross  
Rhema McKnight—6-3, 190, 4.4, La Palma (Calif.)/Kennedy  
Jermaine Mobley—6-0, 180, 4.4, Deerfield Beach, Fla.  
Ryan Moore—6-4, 190, 4.4, Orlando/Dr. Phillips

Dishon Platt—5-11, 180, 4.3, Punta Gorda (Fla.)/Charlotte  
Mario Raley—6-2, 195, 4.4, Charlotte/Independence  
Carl Tabb—6-3, 190, 4.4, Ann Arbor (Mich.)/Huron  
Robert Timmons—6-2, 175, 4.4, Flower Mound (Texas)/Marcus  
Richard Washington—6-1, 190, 4.4, Fort Meyers, Fla.  
Troy Williamson—5-10, 180, 4.3, Aiken (S.C.)/Silver Bluff

## Tight ends (3)

Mercedes Lewis—6-3, 230, 5.4, Amsterdam, N.Y.  
Justin Blalock—6-3, 305, 5.3, Plano (Texas)/East  
James Bonelli—6-6, 285, 5.0, Ventura (Calif.)/St. Bonaventure  
Ryan Carter—6-5, 325, 5.4, Groveland (Fla.)/South Lake  
Tim Duckworth—6-4, 320, 5.0, Taylorsville, Miss.  
Mark Farris—6-6, 285, 5.2, Pittsburgh/North Hills  
Chris Felder—6-7, 285, 5.1, Oelwein, Iowa  
Haines Holloway—6-4, 280, 5.0, Camden (N.J.)/Wilson  
Joey Horne—6-7, 300, 5.0, Hiram, Ga.  
Max Jean-Gilles—6-5, 300, 5.0, North Miami Beach, Fla.  
Brian Johnson—6-5, 265, 4.75, Tallahassee (Fla.)/Godby  
Winston Justice—6-6, 290, 4.9, Long Beach (Calif.)/Poly  
Bob Kochendorfer—6-3, 300, 5.1, Metamora, Ill.  
Derek Landri—6-3, 275, 5.2, Concord (Calif.)/De La Salle  
Marcus McNeil—6-7, 280, 5.0, Ellenwood (Ga.)/Cedar Grove  
Shadu Moore—6-4, 295, 5.0, Paterson (N.J.)/Catholic  
Derek Morris—Huntersville (N.C.)/North Mecklenburg  
Bob Morton—6-4, 305, 5.2, McKinney, Texas  
John Parada—6-4, 294, 5.0, Alta Loma, Calif.  
Nathan Rhodes—6-7, 320, 5.2, East Bakersfield, Calif.  
Rob Smith—6-4, 285, 5.0, Fort Thomas (Ky.)/Highlands  
Kasey Studdard—6-2, 260, 4.8, Highlands (Colo.)/Ranch  
Kyle Tatum—6-6, 260, 4.8, Prattville, Ala.  
Gabe Watson—6-5, 300, 5.1, Southfield, Mich.  
Kyle Williams—6-6, 260, 5.0, Dallas/Highland Park  
Kyle Williams—6-3, 260, 4.9, Ruston, La.

## Offensive linemen (26)

Josh Beekman—6-3, 320, 5.4, Amsterdam, N.Y.  
Justin Blalock—6-3, 305, 5.3, Plano (Texas)/East  
James Bonelli—6-6, 285, 5.0, Ventura (Calif.)/St. Bonaventure  
Ryan Carter—6-5, 325, 5.4, Groveland (Fla.)/South Lake  
Tim Duckworth—6-4, 320, 5.0, Taylorsville, Miss.  
Mark Farris—6-6, 285, 5.2, Pittsburgh/North Hills  
Chris Felder—6-7, 285, 5.1, Oelwein, Iowa  
Haines Holloway—6-4, 280, 5.0, Camden (N.J.)/Wilson  
Joey Horne—6-7, 300, 5.0, Hiram, Ga.  
Max Jean-Gilles—6-5, 300, 5.0, North Miami Beach, Fla.  
Brian Johnson—6-5, 265, 4.75, Tallahassee (Fla.)/Godby  
Winston Justice—6-6, 290, 4.9, Long Beach (Calif.)/Poly  
Bob Kochendorfer—6-3, 300, 5.1, Metamora, Ill.  
Derek Landri—6-3, 275, 5.2, Concord (Calif.)/De La Salle  
Marcus McNeil—6-7, 280, 5.0, Ellenwood (Ga.)/Cedar Grove  
Shadu Moore—6-4, 295, 5.0, Paterson (N.J.)/Catholic  
Derek Morris—Huntersville (N.C.)/North Mecklenburg  
Bob Morton—6-4, 305, 5.2, McKinney, Texas  
John Parada—6-4, 294, 5.0, Alta Loma, Calif.  
Nathan Rhodes—6-7, 320, 5.2, East Bakersfield, Calif.  
Rob Smith—6-4, 285, 5.0, Fort Thomas (Ky.)/Highlands  
Kasey Studdard—6-2, 260, 4.8, Highlands (Colo.)/Ranch  
Kyle Tatum—6-6, 260, 4.8, Prattville, Ala.  
Gabe Watson—6-5, 300, 5.1, Southfield, Mich.  
Kyle Williams—6-6, 260, 5.0, Dallas/Highland Park  
Kyle Williams—6-3, 260, 4.9, Ruston, La.

## Defensive ends (9)

Larry Dibles—6-3, 265, 4.8, Lancaster, Texas  
Julian Jenkins—6-4, 250, 4.7, College Park (Ga.)/Woodward Acad.  
Tamba Hall—6-4, 260, 4.8, Teaneck, N.J.  
Jonathon Mapu—6-3, 260, 4.8, Kahuku, Hawaii  
Kai Parham—6-4, 235, 4.6, Virginia Beach, Va.  
Bryan Pickryl—6-5, 220, 4.5, Jenks, Okla.  
Anthony Spencer—6-4, 245, 4.7, Fort Wayne (Ind.)/Bishop Luers  
Jim Unis—6-4, 250, 4.7, Gloucester, Mass.  
Tim Volk—6-3, 240, 4.6, Sherman Oaks (Calif.)/Notre Dame

## Defensive tackles (13)

Chris Anderson—6-6, 290, 4.9, Jacksonville (Fla.)/Mandarin  
Kedric Gholston—6-4, 285, 4.9, Tyrone (Ga.)/Sandy Creek  
Larry Harrison—6-3, 290, 5.0, Detroit/King  
Willie Henderson—6-7, 295, 4.85, Memphis/Ridgeway  
James Jackson—6-5, 290, 5.0, Tallahassee (Fla.)/Lincoln  
Mike Kolodziej—6-8, 270, 4.95, Joliet (Ill.)/Catholic  
Marco Martin—6-4, 290, 4.8, Mesquite, Texas  
Fred Matua—6-4, 290, 4.8, Wilmington (Calif.)/Banning  
Quinn Pitcock—6-4, 295, 4.8, Piqua, Ohio  
Doug Planchard—6-3, 275, 4.9, Baton Rouge (La.)/Catholic  
Chase Pressley—6-4, 270, 4.8, Fort Smith (Ark.)/Southside  
Manual Wright—6-6, 285, 5.0, Long Beach (Calif.)/Poly  
Rodrique Wright—6-5, 310, 5.0, Alief (Texas)/Hastings

## Linebackers (15)

Ahmad Brooks—6-2, 230, 4.42, Woodbridge (Va.)/Hylton  
Marvin Byrdson—6-3, 230, 4.5, Longview, Texas  
Mike D'Andrea—6-3, 235, 4.53, Avon Lake, Ohio  
Buster Davis—6-0, 230, 4.5, Daytona (Fla.)/Mainland  
Brandon Hancock—6-2, 240, 4.6, Clovis (Calif.)/West  
Rona Hawkins—6-2, 215, 4.45, Tallahassee (Fla.)/Lincoln  
Ricardo Hurley—6-3, 230, 4.6, Greenwood, S.C.  
Berkley Hutchinson—6-3, 225, 4.5, Long Branch, N.J.  
Lucas Jackson—6-1, 210, 4.5, West Monroe, La.  
D'Quell Jackson—6-2, 220, 4.5, Seminole, Fla.  
Patrick Lowery—6-2, 225, 4.6, Mocksville (N.C.)/Davie County  
Kai Parham—6-3, 230, 4.6, Virginia Beach (Va.)/Princess Anne  
Lawrence Pinson—6-2, 245, 4.5, Eagan, Minn.  
Clifton Ryan—6-2, 225, 4.6, Saginaw (Mich.)/Arthur Hill  
Thaddious Washington—6-1, 230, 4.6, Marrero (La.)/John Ehretz

## Cornerbacks (8)

Willie Andrews—5-11, 170, 4.4, Longview, Texas  
Sammy Joseph—6-0, 180, 4.4, Marrero (La.)/Shaw  
Eric McNeal—6-3, 190, 4.45, Gardena (Calif.)/Serra  
Edorian McCullough—5-11, 190, 4.4, Garland (Texas)/N. Garland  
Aaron Miller—6-1, 175, 4.4, Fresno (Calif.)/Edison  
Kekoa Reyes—6-0, 185, 4.4, Waianae, Hawaii  
Greg Threat—6-1, 185, 4.4, Tallahassee (Fla.)/Lincoln  
Jawan Walker—6-0, 185, 4.4, Erie (Pa.)/Cathedral Prep

## Safeties (8)

Darnell Bing—6-2, 205, 4.5, Long Beach (Calif.)/Poly  
William Cooper—6-1, 185, 4.4, Flint (Mich.)/Northern  
Gavin Dickey—6-1, 185, 4.4, Tallahassee (Fla.)/Lincoln  
Kendrick Muckelroy—6-0, 185, 4.5, Hallsville, Texas  
Gerald Riggs Jr.—5-11, 190, 4.4, Chattanooga (Tenn.)/Red Bank  
Vickiel Vaughn—6-1, 185, 4.4, Plano (Texas)/West  
Darren Williams—6-4, 205, 4.45, Clarksdale, Miss.  
Pat Watkins—6-4, 190, 4.4, Tallahassee (Fla.)/Lincoln

# Where the top players signed

## ACC

Rk.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1.	Roscoe Crosby	WR	6-2	195	Buffalo, S.C./Union	Clemson
2.	Dominic Robinson	DB	6-2	200	Diamond Bar, Calif./Diamond Bar	Florida State
3.	Shawn Price	LB	6-3	215	Los Angeles Valley CC	North Carolina State
4.	Milford Brown	OL	6-4	315	Scooba, Miss./East Mississippi CC	Florida State
5.	Chauncey Davis	DL	6-2	230	Auburndale, Fla./Auburndale	Florida State
6.	Ron Lunford	OL	6-5	320	Jacksonville, Fla./Ed White	Florida State
7.	Joe Mauer	QB	6-4	205	St. Paul, Minn./Cretin Durham Hall	Florida State
8.	Jerome Carter	DB	6-1	205	Lake City, Fla./Columbia	Florida State
9.	Terrance Chapman	DL	6-4	225	Van Nuys, Calif./Los Angeles Valley CC	North Carolina State
10.	Jocques Dumas	DL	6-8	240	Asheboro, N.C./Asheboro	North Carolina
11.	Airese Currie	WR	5-11	180	Richland, S.C./Richland Northeast	Clemson
12.	Craphonso Thorpe	WR	6-2	175	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln	Florida State
13.	Gerard Ross	DB	6-2	190	Jacksonville, Fla./Trinity Christian	Florida State
14.	Eric Shelton	RB	6-3	235	Lexington, Ky./Bryan Station	Florida State
15.	Willie Jones	LB	6-2	195	Miami, Fla./Carol City	Florida State
16.	Eric Broe	OL	6-6	275	Norcross, Ga./The Wesleyan School	Florida State
17.	Ben Hall	TE	6-5	229	Duncan, S.C./Duncan	Clemson
18.	Adrian McPherson	QB	6-5	200	Bradenton, Fla./Southeast	Florida State
19.	Tramain Hall	DB	5-11	185	Deerfield Beach, Fla./Deerfield Beach	North Carolina State
20.	Reuben Houston	DB	6-1	188	Peachtree City, Ga./Stars Mill	Georgia Tech
21.	Tymere Zimmerman	WR	6-2	185	Bennettsville, S.C./Marlboro County	Clemson



22.	Marcus Wimbush	DB	5-10	185	Washington, D.C./Dunbar	Maryland
23.	Randy Jones	DB	5-11	170	Rockingham, N.C./Richmond County	Virginia
24.	Gerris Bowers-Wilkerson	LB	6-3	210	Oakland, Calif./Skyline	Georgia Tech
25.	Dawan Landry	QB	6-3	200	Boutte, La./Hahnville	Georgia Tech
26.	Patrick Estes	TE	6-7	240	Richmond, Va./Benedictine	Virginia
27.	Sterling Hicks	WR	6-2	175	Pompano Beach, Fla./Ely	North Carolina State
28.	Willie Reid	RB	5-11	180	Warner Robins, Ga./Warner Robins	Florida State
29.	Scott Robinson	WR	6-1	175	Belle Meade, N.J./Hillsboro	Virginia
30.	Jacque Lewis	RB	5-11	185	Elizabeth City, N.C./Northeastern	North Carolina
31.	Jay Davis	QB	6-3	190	Clearwater, Fla./Central Catholic	North Carolina State
32.	Levon Thomas	WR	6-2	190	College Park, Ga./Banneker	Georgia Tech
33.	Dovonte Edwards	WR	6-0	180	Chapel Hill, N.C./Chapel Hill	North Carolina State
34.	Andrew Henry-Kennon	OL	6-5	285	Tallahassee, Fla./Lincoln	Florida State
35.	Tabugbo Anyansi	LB	6-1	207	Mabelton, Ga./Pebblebrook	Georgia Tech

## Big East

Rk.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1.	Kevin Jones	RB	6-0	200	Chester, Pa./Cardinal O'Hara	Virginia Tech
2.	Leon Williams	LB	6-3	232	Brooklyn, N.Y./Canarsie	Miami
3.	Orien Harris	DL	6-4	270	Newark, Del./Newark	Miami
4.	Antrel Rolle	DB	6-0	200	Homestead, Fla./South Dade	Miami
5.	Frank Gore	RB	5-10	190	Miami/Coral Gables	Miami
6.	Robert Bergman	OL	6-5	280	Bakersfield, Calif./Bakersfield	Miami
7.	Jovonny Ward	DB	6-1	210	Miami/Northwestern	Miami
8.	Cecil Howard	QB	6-2	180	McKeesport, Pa./McKeesport	Syracuse
9.	Andrew Williams	DL	6-4	265	Hinds (Miss.) CC	Miami
10.	Bryan Randall	QB	6-2	200	Williamsburg, Va./Bruton	Virginia Tech
11.	Chris Hathy	OL	6-4	305	Pittsburgh/Mount Lebanon	Boston College
12.	Larry Fitzgerald Jr.	WR	6-4	215	Richfield, Minn./Holy Angels	Pittsburgh
13.	Kellen Winslow Jr.	TE	6-5	210	San Diego/Scripps Ranch	Miami
14.	Jeremy Trueblood	OL	6-9	280	Indianapolis/Cathedral	Boston College
15.	Erik Gill	TE	6-6	238	Belle Vernon, Pa./Belle Vernon	Pittsburgh
16.	Thomas Carroll	DL	6-4	225	Lakewood, N.J./Lakewood	Miami
17.	Davon Clark	DL	6-3	255	Paterson, N.J./Paterson Catholic	Rutgers
18.	Roger McIntosh	LB	6-4	210	Gaffney, S.C./Gaffney	Miami
19.	Fred Lee	WR	5-10	170	Harrisburg, Pa./Bishop McDevitt	Virginia Tech
20.	Brandon Brokaw	RB	6-2	235	Morrisville, Pa./Morrisville	Boston College
21.	Deangelo Hall	DB	5-10	185	Chesapeake, Va./Deep Creek	Virginia Tech
22.	Justin Hamilton	RB	6-3	210	Clintwood, Va./Clintwood	Virginia Tech
23.	Miguel Robede	DL	6-4	252	Vald'or, Quebec/Vieux Montreal	Miami
24.	Joe Dipre	LB	6-5	240	Erie, Pa./Cathedral Prep	Pittsburgh
25.	Rikki Cook	RB	6-2	225	Montclair, N.J./Montclair	Rutgers
26.	Troy Banner	DL	6-4	275	Pittsburgh/Penn Hills	Pittsburgh
27.	Jamel Harris	WR	6-0	175	Red Bank, N.J./Red Bank	Temple
28.	Rashad Butler	OL	6-5	285	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla./Dwyer	Miami
29.	Kevin Everitt	TE	6-5	240	Port Arthur, Texas/Jefferson	Miami
30.	Bernard Lay	DB	6-2	180	Aliquippa, Pa./Aliquippa	Pittsburgh
31.	Larry McClain	DB	5-11	175	Forestville, Md./Forestville	Syracuse
32.	Jason Murphy	DL	6-3	250	Baltimore/Edmondson	Virginia Tech
33.	Larry Lester Jr.	DB	5-9	170	Piscataway, N.J./Piscataway	Boston College
34.	Quinton Porter	QB	6-5	208	Portland, Maine/Portland	Boston College
35.	Kevin Harris	DL	6-5	230	Sharon, Pa./Sharon	Pittsburgh

## Big Ten

Rk.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1.	Ernest Shazor	DB	6-4	200	Detroit/King	Michigan
2.	Brad Banks	QB	6-2	190	Hinds (Miss.) CC	Iowa
3.	Blake Larsen	OL	6-7	295	Atlantic, Iowa/Atlantic	Iowa
4.	Kelly Baraka	RB	6-1	185	Portage, Mich./Northern	Michigan
5.	Marlin Jackson	DB	6-1	185	Sharon, Pa./Sharon	Michigan
6.	Tim Massaquoi	WR	6-4	215	Orefield, Pa./Parkland	Michigan
7.	Alphonso Townsend	OL	6-6	295	Fork Union, Va./Fork Union Prep	Michigan State
8.	Charles Rush	DL	6-3	286	Erie, Pa./Cathedral Prep	Penn State
9.	Pierre Woods	DL	6-6	215	Cleveland/Glenville	Michigan
10.	Pat Massey	DL	6-8	235	Cleveland/St. Ignatius	Michigan
11.	Maurice Hall	RB	5-10	180	Columbus, Ohio/Brookhaven	Ohio State
12.	Anttaj Hawthorne	DL	6-5	285	Hamden, Conn./Hamden	Wisconsin
13.	Brett Bell	DB	6-0	180	Wheaton, Ill./Warrenville South	Wisconsin



14.	Reggie Arden Jr.	LB	6-5	225	Ironton, Ohio/Ironton	Ohio State
15.	C.J. Jones	WR	5-11	180	Garden City (Kan.) CC	Iowa
16.	Kyle Orton	QB	6-4	200	Runnells, Iowa/Southeast Park	Purdue
17.	Scott McClintock	LB	6-3	240	Belle Vernon, Pa./Belle Vernon	Michigan
18.	Thomas Derricks	DL	6-1	287	Dallas/Jesuit Prep	Northwestern
19.	Chris Vance	WR	6-3	180	Fort Scott (Kan.) CC	Ohio State
20.	Angelo Chattams	WR	5-11	180	Dayton, Ohio/Meadowdale	Ohio State
21.	Kevin Noel	WR	6-2	180	Naperville, Ill./Central	Purdue
22.	Tyler Reed	DL	6-3	305	Pittsburgh/Thomas Jefferson	Penn State
23.	Simon Fraser	DL	6-6	240	Upper Arlington, Ohio/Upper Arlington	Ohio State
24.	Jeremire Roberts	DB	6-2	200	Trinity Valley (Texas) CC	Iowa
25.	Lionel Williams	DL	6-4	245	Addison Trail, Ill./Addison Trail	Illinois
26.	Lydell Ross	RB	6-0	210	Tampa/Gaither	Ohio State
27.	Dan Simelis	OL	6-6	285	McKees Rocks, Pa./Montour	Michigan
28.	LaMar Stewart	LB	6-1	225	Reading, Pa./Reading	Penn State
29.	Owen Daniels	QB	6-5	200	Naperville, Ill./Central	Wisconsin
30.	Michael Robinson	QB	6-2	215	Richmond, Va./Varina	Penn State
31.	David Underwood	RB	6-0	219	Madisonville, Texas/Madisonville	Michigan
32.	Kevin Noel	WR	6-3	190	Naperville, Ill./Central	Purdue
33.	Brandon Jones	RB	6-1	215	Peru, Ind./Peru	Purdue
34.	Michael Bazemore	LB	6-4	220	Philadelphia/West Catholic	Michigan State
35.	Matt Sinclair	LB	6-3	240	St Louis/St. Louis University	Illinois

## Big 12

Rk.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1.	Marc Dunn	QB	6-5	205	Ricks College (Idaho)	Kansas State
2.	Anton Paige	WR	6-5	205	Northwest Mississippi CC	Texas Tech
3.	Tommie Harris	DL	6-3	275	Killeen, Texas/Elison	Oklahoma
4.	Alfio Randall	OL	6-6	300	Blinn Junior College, Texas	Texas
5.	Jonathan Scott	OL	6-7	286	Dallas/Carter	Texas
6.	Cedric Benson	RB	6-0	195	Midland, Texas/Lee	Texas
7.	Bobby Walker	DB	6-0	180	Trinity Valley (Texas) CC	Kansas State
8.	Jami Hightower	OL	6-4	305	Jacksonville, Texas/Jacksonville	Texas A&M
9.	Derrick Johnson	LB	6-4	205	Waco, Texas/Waco	Texas
10.	Lawrence Wallace	WR	6-1	190	Mount San Antonio College (Calif.)	Kansas State
11.	Jerome Janet	WR	5-11	190	Tulsa, Okla./Union	Kansas State
12.	Brandon Jones	WR	6-1	195	Texarkana, Texas/Liberty-Eylau	Oklahoma
13.	Brent Rawls	QB	6-5	190	Shreveport, La./Evangel Christian	Oklahoma
14.	Seneca Wallace	QB	6-2	190	Sacramento City (Calif.) College	Iowa State
15.	Jonathan Jackson	DL	6-4	220	Houston/North Shore	Oklahoma
16.	Clint Werth	OL	6-5	285	Butler County (Kan.) CC	Oklahoma
17.	Henry Bryant	DL	6-0	246	Garden City (Kan.) CC	Kansas State
18.	Donta Hickson	RB	5-10	185	McKinney, Texas/McKinney	Oklahoma
19.	Jared Helming	DL	6-4	265	Springfield, Mo./Kickapoo	Nebraska
20.	LaKevin Smith	DL	6-4	297	Macon, Ga./Stratford Academy	Nebraska
21.	Cedric Griffin	DB	6-1	180	San Antonio/Holmes	Texas
22.	Damien Nash	RB	5-11	195	East St. Louis, Ill./East St. Louis	Missouri
23.	Ayo Saba	RB	6-0	255	Blackwood, N.J./Highland	Kansas State
24.	John Harvey	OL	6-6	305	Mesa (Ariz.) CC	Kansas
25.	Chris Chester	TE	6-4	233	Tustin, Calif./Tustin	Oklahoma
26.	Armon Dorrough	WR	6-1	163	Lancaster, Texas/Lancaster	Texas Tech
27.	Quan Cosby	DB	6-2	180	Mart, Texas/Mart	Texas
28.	Clint Ingram	LB	6-3	220	Hallsville, Texas/Hallsville	Oklahoma
29.	Seymore Shaw	RB	6-4	210	Shawnee, Okla./Shawnee	Oklahoma
30.	Roman Reeves	OL	6-5	296	Livingston, Texas/Livingston	Texas
31.	John Roberson	WR	6-6	175	Bay City, Texas/Bay City	Texas A&M
32.	Gary Pike	OL	6-7	275	Pueblo, Colo./Centennial	Nebraska
33.	Jason Carter	QB	6-1	185	Caldwell, Texas/Caldwell	Texas A&M
34.	Cory Ross	DB	5-9	182	Denver/Jefferson	Nebraska
35.	Robert Hodge	QB	6-2	180	El Camino College (Calif.)	Colorado

## Conference USA

Rk.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1.	Reggie Holts	RB	6-0	223	Blinn (Texas) JC	Texas Christian
2.	Kevis Coley	LB	6-3	200	Palatka, Fla./Palatka	Southern Mississippi
3.	Paul Troth	QB	6-4	205	Charlotte, N.C./Vance	East Carolina
4.	D'Brain Hudgins	RB	6-0	200	Fork Union, Va./Fork Union Military	East Carolina
5.	Tim Jones	TE	6-2	225	Lakeland, Fla./Kathleen	South Florida



6.	Derrick Ducksworth	LB	6-1	215	Mize, Miss./Mize	Southern Mississippi
7.	Tristan Smith	RB	5-10	180	Slidell, La./Salmen	Tulane
8.	Roland Cola	DB	5-9	180	Dodge City (Kan.) CC	Houston
9.	Guy Whipmer	TE	6-6	215	Havelock, N.C./Havelock	East Carolina
10.	Dennis Hart	DB	6-2	225	Compton (Calif.) College	Cincinnati

#### Mid-American

Rk.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1.	Kendrick Starling	WR	6-1	185	Navarro (Texas) CC	Marshall
2.	Thomas Plummer	RB	6-2	218	Toronto/Carr	Akron
3.	Obadiah Harris	LB	6-3	230	Valley Forge, Pa./Valley Forge Military	Buffalo
4.	Antonio King	LB	6-1	215	Chatham, Va./Hargrave Military	Kent
5.	Greg Jennings	DB	6-1	190	Kalamazoo, Mich./Central	Western Michigan
6.	Jovan Clarke	LB	6-3	215	Highland (Kan.) CC	Central Michigan
7.	Brian Jones	QB	6-2	200	Shasta (Calif.) College	Toledo
8.	Kevin Atkins	LB	6-3	225	Richmond, Va./Henrico	Marshall
9.	James Hawkins	WR	6-1	195	Middleburg Heights, Ohio/Midpark	Bowling Green
10.	Mohammed Bah	RB	5-9	165	Burtonsville, Md./Paint Branch	Kent

#### Mountain West

Rk.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1.	Marty Johnson	RB	5-11	210	Butte (Calif.) College	Utah
2.	Loo Heather	LB	6-3	225	Allan Hancock College (Calif.)	San Diego State
3.	Dominic Payne	LB	6-5	215	Eastern Arizona College	Utah
4.	Spencer Nead	TE	6-5	250	Ricks (Idaho) College	BYU
5.	Earvin Johnson	WR	6-4	200	South Gate, Calif./Cathedral	UNLV
6.	Quinn Christensen	DL	6-7	295	Dixie (Utah) College	BYU
7.	Michael Brunker	WR	6-2	175	Grossmont (Calif.) College	New Mexico
8.	Lynzell Jackson	WR	6-3	195	Tempe, Ariz./Tempe	Utah
9.	Bernard Fano	DL	6-3	275	Fountain Valley, Calif./Fountain Valley	Utah
10.	Dontrell Moore	RB	5-10	190	Roswell, N.M./Roswell	New Mexico

#### Pac-10

Rk.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1.	Kai Ellis	LB	6-3	245	City College of San Francisco	Washington
2.	Matt Ware	DB	6-3	195	Los Angeles/Loyola	UCLA
3.	Shaun Cody	DL	6-5	240	Hacienda Heights, Calif./Los Altos	USC
4.	Charles Frederick	WR	5-11	170	Boca Raton, Fla./Pope John Paul	Washington
5.	Michael Craven	LB	6-2	215	Palm Desert, Calif./La Quinta	Stanford
6.	Reggie Williams	WR	6-4	215	Tacoma, Wash./Lakewood Lakes	Washington
7.	Marvin Simmons	LB	6-1	210	Long Beach, Calif./Poly	USC
8.	Kellen Clemens	QB	6-2	190	Burns, Ore./Burns	Oregon
9.	Lamar Baker	DB	5-11	180	Phoenix/Agua Fria	Arizona State
10.	Lorenzo Alexander	DL	6-2	292	Berkeley, Calif./St. Mary	California
11.	Andre Cyrus	WR	6-1	200	Mount San Antonio (Calif.) College	Oregon State
12.	Robert Cleary	OL	6-7	275	Lake Elsinore, Calif./Temescal Canyon	UCLA
13.	Francisco Tipoti	OL	6-6	320	City College of San Francisco	Washington
14.	Matt Leinart	QB	6-5	208	Santa Ana, Calif./Mater Dei	USC
15.	J.R. Lemon	RB	6-2	217	Tyrone, Ga./Sandy Creek	Stanford
16.	Mark Anderson	TE	6-7	258	Lewiston, Mont./Lewiston	Stanford
17.	Casey Paus	QB	6-5	200	New Lenox, Ill./Lincoln-Way	Washington
18.	Junior Taylor	WR	6-3	185	Mesa, Ariz./Mesa	UCLA
19.	Derek Anderson	QB	6-6	220	Scappoose, Ore./Scappoose	Oregon State
20.	Nic Costa	QB	5-11	190	Aloha, Ore./Aloha	Arizona
21.	Spencer Havner	LB	6-3	215	Nevada City, Calif./Nevada Union	UCLA
22.	Billy Hart	QB	6-2	190	Santa Ana, Calif./Mission Viejo	USC
23.	Junior Siavii	DL	6-6	300	Butte College (Calif.)	Oregon
24.	Mike Bell	RB	6-0	185	Tolleson, Ariz./Tolleson	Arizona
25.	Lee Burghgras	TE	6-5	225	Ontario, Calif./Norco	Arizona State
26.	Travon McGee	TE	6-7	245	Santa Monica (Calif.) CC	Oregon State
27.	Raymond Tago	DL	6-3	260	Long Beach, Calif./Poly	USC
28.	Tom Canada	DL	6-3	265	Allen Hancock College (Calif.)	California
29.	Jibril Raymo	DB	6-3	200	Beverly Hills, Calif./Beverly Hills	UCLA
30.	William Buchanan	WR	6-3	171	Oceanside, Calif./Oceanside	USC
31.	D.J. Coote	DB	6-2	190	Ventura College (Calif.)	Oregon State
32.	Phillip Goodman	WR	6-0	210	Vallejo, Calif./Vallejo	Oregon
33.	Daryl Poston	RB	5-11	180	Huntington Beach, Calif./Edison	USC
34.	Jason Lowe	LB	6-3	231	Cerritos College (Calif.)	Oregon State
35.	Jason Wardlow	DL	6-4	220	Upland, Calif./Upland	USC



## SEC

Rk.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1.	Kevin Simon	LB	6-0	210	Concord, Calif./De La Salle	Tennessee
2.	Jabari Davis	RB	6-0	230	Stone Mountain, Ga./Tucker	Tennessee
3.	Marcus Spears	TE	6-5	270	Baton Rouge, La./Southern Lab	LSU
4.	Brodie Croyle	QB	6-3	186	Rainbow City, Ala./Rainbow City	Alabama
5.	Marquise Hill	DL	6-8	290	New Orleans/De La Salle	LSU
6.	Ben Wilkerson	OL	6-4	265	Hemphill, Texas/Hemphill	LSU
7.	Chris Spencer	OL	6-4	305	Madison, Miss./Central	Mississippi
8.	Michael Clayton	WR	6-2	200	Baton Rouge, La./Christian Life	LSU
9.	Derrick Tinsley	RB	6-1	180	Marietta, Ga./Marietta	Tennessee
10.	Marquise Elmore	DL	6-4	230	Folkston, Ga./Charlton County	Georgia
11.	Carnell Williams	RB	5-11	192	Atalla, Ala./Etowah	Auburn
12.	D.J. Shockley	QB	6-2	185	College Park, Ga./North Clayton	Georgia
13.	Ahmad Carroll	DB	6-0	190	Atlanta/Douglass	Arkansas
14.	Korey Banks	DB	5-11	180	Garden City (Kan.) CC	Mississippi State
15.	Andrew Whitworth	OL	6-7	300	West Monroe, La./West Monroe	LSU
16.	Marvin Jackson	DB	5-11	180	Corsicana, Texas/Navarro JC	Arkansas
17.	Cedrick Houston	RB	6-0	200	Clarendon, Ark./Clarendon	Tennessee
18.	Lamarcus Rowell	LB	6-3	212	Opelika, Ala./Opelika	Auburn
19.	Shyrone Carey	RB	5-9	180	Marrero, La./Shaw	LSU
20.	Jeb Huckleba	LB	6-5	201	Searcy, Ark./Harding Academy	Arkansas
21.	Shawn Andrews	DL	6-4	320	Camden, Ark./Camden	Arkansas
22.	Darrell Holmes	DL	6-3	255	Atlanta/Crim	Georgia
23.	Clarence McDougal	DB	6-1	200	Clinton, Miss./Clinton	Mississippi State
24.	Maurice Mitchell	OL	6-8	314	Fork Union, Va./Fork Union Prep	Florida
25.	Forrest Tucker	DL	6-4	240	Lillington, N.C./Western Harnett	Auburn
26.	De'Arrius Howard	RB	5-11	220	West Memphis, Ark./W. Memphis	Arkansas
27.	Robert Boulware	DB	5-11	185	Charlotte, N.C./Vance	Tennessee
28.	Wayne Dickens	DL	6-2	273	Lakeland, Fla./Lake Gibson	Auburn
29.	C.J. Fayton	QB	6-2	190	Virginia Beach, Va./Princess Anne	Tennessee
30.	Rudy Niswanger	OL	6-6	265	Monroe, La./Ouachita Christian	LSU
31.	Corey Jenkins	QB	6-1	215	Garden City (Kan.) CC	South Carolina
32.	Montrell Jones	WR	6-2	185	Louisville, Ky./Male	Tennessee
33.	Jonathan Colon	OL	6-5	300	Miami/Central	Florida
34.	Andre Zellner	TE	6-4	240	Chatham, Va./Hargrave Military	Georgia
35.	Mathew Thomas	WR	6-0	175	Pearson, Ga./Atkinson County	South Carolina

## Sun Belt

Rk.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1.	Claude Whitaker	RB	6-1	200	Blinn Junior College (Texas)	Louisiana-Lafayette
2.	Reggie Jones	WR	6-3	210	Middle Georgia JC	Middle Tennessee State
3.	Samuel Smith	DL	6-4	250	Gulf Coast CC (Miss.)	Middle Tennessee State
4.	Te'Mon Wallace	QB	6-0	204	West Hills JC (Calif.)	New Mexico State
5.	Ja'Mel Branch	RB	5-7	170	Katy, Texas/Katy	North Texas
6.	Chuck Allen	DB	5-9	165	Hinds (Miss.) CC	Arkansas State
7.	Andrew Hill	WR	5-10	160	Citrus JC (Calif.)	Idaho
8.	Ivory Brown	RB	6-0	255	Bastrop, La./Bastrop	Louisiana-Monroe
9.	Antoine Grant	OL	6-4	345	Jones (Miss.) Junior College	Louisiana-Lafayette
10.	Shavaskey Brown	OL	6-2	290	LaGrange, Ga./LaGrange	Middle Tennessee State

## WAC

Rk.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/school	College
1.	Johnnie Thomas	DL	6-3	298	Holmes (Miss.) CC	Nevada
2.	Chauncey Ako	LB	5-11	235	Santa Rosa (Calif.) JC	Boise State
3.	Jeremy Hamilton	LB	6-0	205	Ruston, La./Ruston	Louisiana Tech
4.	Demorieaux Reneau	DB	6-1	190	Fresno (Calif.) City College	Fresno State
5.	Isaac Sopoaga	DL	6-3	299	College of the Canyons (Calif.)	Hawaii
6.	Orlando Evans	QB	6-1	200	Solano (Calif.) College	San Jose State
7.	Ikaika Curman	LB	5-11	230	Honolulu/St. Louis	Hawaii
8.	Kevin Ford	QB	5-11	195	Madisonville, Texas/Madisonville	Rice
9.	Kevin Meyers	OL	6-4	290	Grossmont (Calif.) College	San Jose State
10.	Shanderric Charles	RB	5-9	175	Port Arthur, Texas/Jefferson	SMU

TEAM	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
AIR FORCE	Oklahoma	Tennessee Tech	Utah	at Tennessee Tech	at San Diego State	at Navy	Wyoming	at BYU	at New Mexico	Army	at CSU (Nov. 8)	UNLV	at Hawaii
AKRON	at Ohio State	Eastern Michigan	Eastern Michigan	at Purdue	Ohio	at Western Michigan	at Miami (Ohio)	Bowling Green	at Marshall	at Central Florida	at Buffalo	Kent State	
ALABAMA	UCLA	at Vanderbilt	Southern Miss	Arkansas	at South Carolina	UTEP	at Mississippi	Tennessee		LSU	Mississippi State	at Auburn	
ARIZONA	at San Diego State	Idaho	(at Birmingham, Ala.)	UNLV	Washington State	Oregon	at Oregon State	at Washington	USC	at California	Stanford		at Arizona State
ARIZONA STATE	(Aug. 30)												(Nov. 23)
ARKANSAS	UNLV	San Diego State	at UCLA	at Stanford	San Jose State	Louisiana-Lafayette	at USC	Oregon State	Washington	at Oregon	Washington State	Mississippi State	Arizona (Nov. 23)
ARKANSAS STATE	(at Little Rock, Ark.)	Tennessee	North Texas	at Alabama	at Georgia		South Carolina		Auburn	at Mississippi	Central Florida		at LSU
ARMY	at Georgia	at Baylor	Nicholls State	Jacksonville State	at Boston College	Mississippi	Louisiana-Lafayette	at North Texas	Idaho	at Middle Tenn. St.	at New Mex. St.	Louisiana-Monroe	
AUBURN	Ball State	Mississippi	at LSU	at Syracuse	at Vanderbilt	Houston	East Carolina	at TCU	Tulane	at Air Force		at Memphis	Navy (Dec. 1)
BALL STATE	at Auburn	at Kentucky	Southern Illinois	at Western Michigan	Miami (Ohio)	Mississippi State	Florida	Louisiana Tech	at Arkansas		at Georgia	Alabama	
BAYLOR	Arkansas State	Arkansas State	at Minnesota	New Mexico	at Iowa State	at Texas A&M	Nebraska	at Oklahoma	Texas Tech	Central Michigan	Kent State	at Northern Illinois	
BOISE STATE	at South Carolina	Washington State	Central Michigan	UTEP	at Idaho	at Rice	Tulsa	at Fresno State	Nevada	Texas	at Missouri	Oklahoma State	at Louisiana Tech
BOSTON COLLEGE	West Virginia	at Stanford		at Navy	Army	Temple	at Virginia Tech	Pittsburgh	No. Dame	Miami (Ohio)	Miami (Fla.)	at Rutgers	at Syracuse
BOWLING GREEN	at Missouri	Buffalo	at South Carolina	Temple	at Marshall	Kent State	at Western Michigan	at Akron		at Ohio	at Ohio		Toledo (Nov. 23)
BUFFALO	Rutgers (Aug. 30)	at Bowling Green	at Army	at Connecticut	Central Michigan	at Miami (Ohio)	Marshall	at Kent State	at Eastern Mich.	Ohio	Akron	Utah	at Hawaii (Dec. 1)
BYU	Nevada	at California	at Mississippi State		at UNLV	Utah State (Oct. 5)	at New Mexico	Air Force	at San Diego State	Colo. St. (Nov. 1)	at Wyoming		
CALIFORNIA	BYU	at Rutgers	at Washington State	at Tulane	Washington	UAB	Liberty	Louisiana-Monroe	at Oregon State	Arizona	USC	at Stanford	
CENTRAL FLORIDA	at Clemson	at Syracuse	Louisiana-Lafayette	at Tulane	at Virginia Tech		Ohio	Louisiana-Monroe	at Utah State	Akron	at Arkansas		
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	E. Kentucky (Aug. 30)	at Michigan State	at Boise State	Toledo	at Buffalo		at UAB	at Marshall	Northern Illinois	Eastern Michigan	at East Carolina	at W. Michigan	
CINCINNATI	Purdue (Sept. 2)	at Army	Louisiana-Monroe	at Miami (Ohio)		Tulane		at Houston	Louisville	Connecticut			at Memphis
CLEMSON	Central Florida	Wofford	Duke	Virginia	at Georgia Tech		at NC State	North Carolina	at Wake Forest	Florida State	at Maryland	at South Carolina	
COLORADO	Fresno State (Aug. 25)	San Jose State	at Washington State	Kansas		at Kansas State	Texas A&M	at Texas	at Oklahoma State	Missouri	at Iowa State		Nebraska (Nov. 23)
COLORADO STATE	Colorado (at Denver)	Nevada	at UNLV (Sept. 14)	San Diego State	at Wyoming	at Louisville (Oct. 4)	Fresno State		Utah	at BYU (Nov. 1)	Air Force (Nov. 8)	at New Mexico	
CONNECTICUT	at Virginia Tech	Eastern Michigan	at Temple	Buffalo	at Rutgers	Eastern Michigan	at South Florida	Ball State	Ball State	at Cincinnati	Utah State	at Middle Tenn.	
DUKE	Florida State	at Rice	at Clemson	Northwestern	at Virginia	Georgia Tech	Wake Forest	at Maryland	Vanderbilt	NC State		at North Carolina	
EAST CAROLINA	Wake Forest	at Tulane	at Syracuse	William & Mary	at North Carolina	at Army	at Wake Forest	Memphis	at TCU (Oct. 30)		at Cincinnati	Louisville (Nov. 15)	So. Miss (Nov. 23)
EASTERN MICHIGAN	Southeast Mo. State	at Maryland	at Akron	Indiana State	Western Michigan	at Connecticut	Ball State	at Memphis	Buffalo	at Northern Illinois	at Central Mich.	at Toledo	
FLORIDA	Marshall	Louisiana-Monroe	Tennessee	at Kentucky	Mississippi State	at LSU	at Auburn		Georgia	Vanderbilt	at South Carolina	Florida State	
FLORIDA STATE	at Duke	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	at North Carolina	Wake Forest		Miami (Fla.)	at Virginia	Maryland	at Clemson	NC State	at Florida	
FRESNO STATE	at Colorado (Aug. 25)	at Wisconsin	Utah State	at Tulsa	Louisiana Tech	Boise State	at Colorado State	Boise State	at Hawaii	Rice	at SMU	at Nevada	San Jose State
GEORGIA	Arkansas State	South Carolina	Houston		Arkansas	at Tennessee	at Vanderbilt	Kentucky	Florida	Auburn		at Mississippi	at Georgia Tech
GEORGIA TECH	Syracuse (Aug. 26)	at Navy	at Florida State		Clemson	at Duke	Maryland (Oct. 11)	NC State	(at Jacksonville, Fla.)	N. Carolina (Nov. 1)	at Virginia	at Wake Forest	Georgia
HAWAII	The Citadel	Montana	at Nevada		Rice	at SMU	UTEP	at Tulsa	Fresno State	San Jose State	Boise State	Miami (Ohio)	Air Force
HOUSTON	Rice		at Georgia	Texas	TCU	at Army	Memphis	Cincinnati	at Southern Miss	at South Florida	at Louisville	UAB	BYU (Dec. 1)



TEAM	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
IDAHO	Wash. St. (Aug. 30) at California	at Arizona	at Montana	at Washington	Boise State	at Middle Tennessee St.	at New Mexico State	La.-Lafayette	at Arkansas State	Louisiana-Monroe	Penn State	North Texas	
ILLINOIS	at California	at Northern Illinois	Louisville	at Michigan	Ohio State	Minnesota	at Indiana	Wisconsin	at Ohio State	at Penn State	at Ohio State	Northwestern (Nov. 22)	
INDIANA	at NC State	at NC State	Kentucky	Utah	Penn State	at Wisconsin	Illinois	at Iowa	Michigan	Northwestern	at Michigan State	Penn State	Purdue
IOWA	Kent State	Miami (Ohio)	at Iowa State	at Ohio	Baylor	at Nebraska	at Missouri	Indiana	at Kansas State	at Wisconsin	at Northwestern	Minnesota	
IOWA STATE	SW Missouri	at Northern Iowa	Iowa	at Ohio	Baylor	at Nebraska	at Missouri	Indiana	at Kansas State	at Wisconsin	at Northwestern	Minnesota	
KANSAS	at USC	UCLA	Wyoming	at Colorado	at Oklahoma	at Texas Tech	at Oklahoma	Missouri	at Kansas State	at Nebraska	at Texas	at Kansas	
KANSAS STATE	at USC	UCLA	Wyoming	at Colorado	at Oklahoma	at Texas Tech	at Oklahoma	Missouri	at Kansas State	at Nebraska	at Texas	at Kansas	
KENT STATE	at Iowa	Bucknell	Miami (Ohio)	at West Virginia	Mississippi	at Bowling Green	at Northern Illinois	Buffalo	at Kansas State	at Nebraska	at Texas	at Kansas	
KENTUCKY	Louisville	Ball State	at Indiana	Florida	Mississippi	at Bowling Green	at Northern Illinois	Buffalo	at Kansas State	at Nebraska	at Texas	at Kansas	
LA-LAFAYETTE	Nicholls State	at Minnesota	at Central Florida	Southern Miss	Middle Tenn. State	at South Carolina	at Arkansas State	at Georgia	Louisiana-Monroe	at Mississippi State	at Vanderbilt	Tennessee	
LOUISIANA-MONROE	Sam Houston State	at Florida	at Cincinnati	Middle Tennessee St.	New Mexico State	at Arizona State	at Arkansas State	at Idaho	at La.-Lafayette	at Idaho	at North Texas	New Mexico State	
LOUISIANA TECH	SMU (at Shreveport, La.)	at Oklahoma State	at Kansas State	at Kansas State	at Fresno State	San Jose State	at Nevada	at Auburn	Rice	at Tulsa	Troy State	at Arkansas State	
LOUISVILLE	New Mex. St. (Aug. 23) at Kentucky	Western Carolina	at Illinois	Memphis	Memphis	Colorado State (Oct. 4)	So. Miss (Oct. 16)	at Cincinnati	at Cincinnati	at Tulane	Houston	at ECU (Nov. 15)	Boise State
LSU	Tulane	Utah State	Auburn	at Tennessee	at Tennessee	Florida	at Kentucky	at Mississippi St.	Mississippi	at Alabama	Middle Tenn. St.	Arkansas	
MARSHALL	at Florida	Massachusetts	at TCU	Bowling Green	Bowling Green	at Northern Illinois	at Buffalo	Central Michigan	Akron	at Kent State	at Miami (Ohio)	Ohio	
MARYLAND	North Carolina	Eastern Michigan	West Virginia	at Wake Forest	at Virginia	at Georgia Tech (Oct. 11)	at Ga. Tech (Oct. 11)	Duke	at Florida State	Troy State	Clemson	at NC State	
MEMPHIS	at Miss. St. (Sept. 3)	Chattanooga	Washington	South Florida	at Louisville	Southern Mississippi	at Houston	at East Carolina	UAB	Temple	at Tennessee	Army	Cincinnati
MIAMI (FLA.)	at Penn State	Rutgers	Washington	South Florida	at Pitt (Sept. 27)	Troy State	at Florida State	at Toledo	West Virginia	Temple	at Boston College	Syracuse	at Virginia Tech (Dec. 1)
MIAMI (OHIO)	at Michigan	at Iowa	at Kent State	Cincinnati	at Ball State	Buffalo	Akron	at Ohio	Western Michigan	at Bowling Green	Marshall	at Hawaii	
MICHIGAN	Miami (Ohio)	at Washington	Western Michigan	Illinois	at Northwestern	at Penn State	Purdue	at Minnesota	at Wisconsin	at Michigan	Minnesota	at Wisconsin	Ohio State
MICHIGAN STATE	Central Michigan	at Michigan	Missouri	at Louisiana-Monroe	at La.-Lafayette	Idaho	at North Texas	at Mississippi	New Mexico State	at Michigan	Indiana	at Purdue	Penn State
MIDDLE TENN. STATE	at Vanderbilt (Aug. 30)	Troy State	at Baylor	at Louisiana-Monroe	Purdue	Idaho	at North Texas	at Mississippi	New Mexico State	at Michigan	Indiana	at Purdue	Penn State
MINNESOTA	at Toledo (Aug. 31)	Louisiana-Lafayette	at Baylor	at Louisiana-Monroe	Purdue	Idaho	at North Texas	at Mississippi	New Mexico State	at Michigan	Indiana	at Purdue	Penn State
MISSISSIPPI	Murray State	at Auburn	Vanderbilt	South Carolina	at Kentucky	at Arkansas State	at Auburn	at Mississippi	Middle Tenn. State	at Louisiana	at Alabama	at Georgia	at Mississippi State
MISSISSIPPI STATE	Memphis (Sept. 3)	BYU	BYU	South Carolina	at Kentucky	at Arkansas State	at Auburn	at Mississippi	Middle Tenn. State	at Louisiana	at Alabama	at Georgia	at Mississippi State
MISSOURI	Bowling Green	Southwest Texas	at Michigan State	Boston College	Nebraska	at Oklahoma State	at Iowa State	at Kansas	Texas	at Colorado	Baylor	at Arkansas State	Mississippi
NAVY	at Temple (Aug. 30)	Georgia Tech	at Northwestern	Boston College	Nebraska	at Oklahoma State	at Iowa State	at Kansas	Texas	at Colorado	Baylor	at Arkansas State	Mississippi
NEBRASKA	TCU (Aug. 25)	Notre Dame	Rice	Florida State	at Missouri	Iowa State	at Baylor	Texas Tech	Oklahoma	at Kansas	Tulane	at Notre Dame	Army (Dec. 1)
NEVADA	at BYU	at Colorado State	Hawaii	at San Jose State	at Missouri	Iowa State	at Baylor	Texas Tech	Oklahoma	at Kansas	Tulane	at Notre Dame	Army (Dec. 1)
NEW MEXICO	UTEP	at Texas Tech	New Mexico State	at Baylor	at Utah	UNLV	Louisiana Tech	at Rice	at Boise State	SMU	UNLV	Fresno State	at UTEP
NEW MEXICO STATE	at Louisville (Aug. 23)	Oregon State	at New Mexico	at Kansas State	at La.-Monroe	at Tulsa	BYU	at Arkansas State	at Middle Tenn. St.	at San Diego State	UNLV	Colorado State	
NORTH CAROLINA	at Texas	at Texas	SMU	Florida State	at NC State	East Carolina	Virginia	at Clemson	at Toledo	at Ga. Tech (Nov. 1)	Wake Forest	Duke	
NC STATE	at Oklahoma (Aug. 25)	Indiana	at Arkansas	at Wake Forest	at NC State	East Carolina	Virginia	at Clemson	at Toledo	at Ga. Tech (Nov. 1)	Wake Forest	Duke	
NORTH TEXAS	TCU	at Oklahoma	at Arkansas	Texas Tech	at South Carolina	Louisiana-Monroe	Clemson	at Georgia Tech	at Arkansas State	at Duke	at Florida State	Maryland	
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	S. Florida (Aug. 30)	at Illinois	at Wake Forest	at Wake Forest	at South Carolina	Louisiana-Monroe	Clemson	at Georgia Tech	at Arkansas State	at Duke	at Florida State	Maryland	
NORTHERN MICHIGAN	at UNLV (Sept. 7)	at Nebraska	Navy	at Duke	at Michigan State	at Ohio State	at Minnesota	Western Michigan	at Central Michigan	at Eastern Michigan	at Iowa	Ball State	
NOTRE DAME	at Nebraska	at Nebraska	at Purdue	Michigan State	at Texas A&M	Pittsburgh	West Virginia	USC	at Boston College	Tennessee	Bowling Green	Navy	at Stanford
OHIO	at NC State	at Akron	at West Virginia	Iowa State	at Akron	at Indiana	at Central Michigan	Miami (Ohio)	Kent State	at Buffalo	Bowling Green	Navy	at Stanford
OKLAHOMA	N. Carolina (Aug. 25) at Air Force	North Texas	San Diego State	at UCLA	at Indiana	Northwestern	Wisconsin	at Penn State	at Nebraska	at Minnesota	Purdue	Illinois	at Michigan
			Tulsa	Texas (at Dallas)	Kansas State	Texas (at Dallas)	at Kansas	Baylor	at Nebraska		Texas A&M	at Texas Tech	Oklahoma St.

TEAM	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
OKLAHOMA STATE	at Southern Miss	Louisiana Tech	Northern Arizona	at Texas A&M	at Utah State	Missouri	Texas	at Iowa State	Colorado	Arizona State	Texas Tech	at Baylor	at Oklahoma St.
OREGON	Wisconsin	Utah	at New Mexico State	USC	UCLA	at Washington State	Arizona	Stanford	at Washington St.	at USC	Washington	California	at Oregon (Dec. 1)
PENN STATE	Miami (Fla.)	South Florida	at Virginia (Sept. 13)	Wisconsin	at Iowa	Michigan	Syracuse	at Northwestern	Ohio State	Southern Miss	at Illinois	Indiana	at Michigan State
PITTSBURGH	East Tennessee State	at Cincinnati (Sept. 2)	UAB	at Nebraska	at Minnesota	at Notre Dame	at Michigan	at Boston College	at Temple	Virginia Tech	at Rutgers	Michigan State	at Indiana
PURDUE	at Houston	Duke	at Nebraska	Akron	at Hawaii	Iowa	at Michigan	Nevada	Northwestern	Illinois	at Ohio State	UTEP	at SMU
RICE	at Buffalo (Aug. 30)	at Miami (Fla.)	California	Virginia Tech	Connecticut	Boise State	at Navy	Navy	at Louisiana Tech	at West Virginia	Tulsa	Boston College	
RUTGERS	Arizona (Aug. 30)	at Arizona State	at Ohio State	at Colorado State	Air Force	Syracuse	at Temple	at UTEP	BYU	New Mexico	Pittsburgh	Wyoming	
SAN DIEGO STATE	at USC	at Colorado	Stanford	Nevada	at Arizona State	Eastern Illinois	at UNLV	at UTEP	Tulsa	at Hawaii	at Fresno State	at Boise State	at Fresno State
SAN JOSE STATE	at Louisiana Tech	TCU	at North Carolina	NC State	at Mississippi State	Hawaii	at San Jose State	Vanderbilt	UTEP	at Nevada	Fresno State	at Tulsa	Rice
SMU	Boise State	at Georgia	Bowling Green	at Mississippi State	Alabama	Kentucky	at Arkansas		at Tennessee	at Nevada	Florida	Clemson	
SOUTH CAROLINA	at N. Illinois (Aug. 30)	at Pittsburgh	Southern Utah	at Memphis	North Texas	at Utah	Connecticut		Liberty	Houston	Western Illinois		Utah State
SOUTH FLORIDA	Oklahoma State		at Alabama	at Louisiana-Lafayette	UAB	at Memphis	at Louisville (Oct. 16)		Houston	at Penn State	Tulane		at E. Carolina (Nov. 23)
SOUTHERN MISS			at San Jose State	Auburn	at USC	at Rutgers	Washington State	at Oregon	UCLA	at Washington	at Arizona	California	TCU (Nov. 30)
STANFORD	Baylor (Aug. 26)	Boston College	Central Florida				at Pittsburgh	Temple	at Virginia Tech		West Virginia	at Miami (Fla.)	Notre Dame
SYRACUSE	(at E. Rutherford, N.J.)		East Carolina										Boston College
TCU	at Tennessee	at SMU	Marshall	Northwestern State	at Houston		at Tulane	Army	ECU (Oct. 30)	at UAB		Louisville	at So. Miss (Nov. 30)
TEMPLE	at Nebraska (Aug. 25)	at Bowling Green					Rutgers	at Syracuse	Pittsburgh	at Miami (Fla.)	Virginia Tech	at West Virginia	
TENNESSEE	Navy (Aug. 30)	Toledo	Connecticut	at Florida	LSU	Georgia		at Alabama	South Carolina	at Baylor	Memphis	at Kentucky	Vanderbilt
TEXAS	New Mexico State	North Carolina	at Arkansas	at Houston	Texas Tech	Oklahoma (at Dallas)	at Oklahoma State	Colorado	Iowa State	at Texas Tech	Kansas	at Oklahoma	at Texas A&M (Nov. 23)
TEXAS A&M	McNeese State	at Wyoming (Sept. 6)	at UTEP	Oklahoma State	Notre Dame	Baylor	at Colorado	at Kansas State	at Nebraska	at Texas Tech	at Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Texas (Nov. 23)
TEXAS TECH	Minnesota (Aug. 31)	at Temple	Youngstown State	Central Florida	Southern	at Cincinnati	Kansas State	at Ball State	Navy	W. Michigan (Nov. 6)	at Oklahoma St.	Eastern Michigan	
TOLEDO	at LSU	East Carolina				at Cincinnati	TCU	at UAB	at Army	Louisville	at Navy	at Southern Miss	
TULANE	Indiana St. (Aug. 30)	at Florida State	at Oklahoma	Fresno State	at UTEP	New Mexico State	at Boise State	Hawaii	at Memphis	Louisiana Tech	at Rice	SMU	
TULSA	Montana St. (Aug. 30)	at Kansas	at Pittsburgh	Ohio State	at Southern Miss	at Central Florida	Cincinnati	Tulane	at Stanford	at Washington St.	TCU	at Houston	
UAB	at Arkansas	Northwestern	Colorado St.	at Arizona	BYU	at Nevada	San Diego State	California	at Wyoming	at New Mexico	Oregon	at USC	
UCLA	at Arkansas	Kansas State	at Air Force	at Oregon	Stanford	at Washington	Arizona State	at Notre Dame	at Arizona	Oregon State	at California	UCLA	
UNLV	(in Little Rock, Ark.)	at Oregon	at Fresno State	at Boise State	New Mexico	South Florida	at UNLV	Wyoming	at Colorado State	at UNLV	San Diego State	at BYU	at South Florida
USC	at New Mexico	Texas Southern	Texas Tech	at Boise State	Tulsa	at Alabama	at Hawaii	San Jose State	at SMU		Louisiana Tech	at Rice	Nevada
UTAH	Middle Tenn. (Aug. 30)	Alabama	at Mississippi	Richmond	Auburn	(in Birmingham, Ala.)	Georgia	at South Carolina	at Duke	at Florida	Kentucky	at Tennessee	
UTAH STATE	at Wisconsin (Aug. 25)	Western Michigan	Penn State (Sept. 13)	at Clemson	Duke	at Maryland	at North Carolina	Florida State	Syracuse	Wake Forest	Georgia Tech	Virginia Tech	
UTEP	at East Carolina	Appalachian State	Northern Illinois	at Rutgers	Central Florida	at West Virginia	Boston College	Idaho State	at Clemson	at Pittsburgh	at Temple	at Virginia	Miami (Fla.) (Dec. 1)
VANDERBILT	at East Carolina	Michigan	at Miami (Fla.)	Idaho	at California	NC State	at Duke	Arizona	Clemson	at Virginia	at N. Carolina	Georgia Tech	
VIRGINIA	at Boise State	at Boise State	Colorado	California	at Arizona	USC	at UCLA	at Stanford	at Arizona State	Stanford	at Oregon State	Washington State	
WAKE FOREST	at Boston College	Ohio	at Maryland	Kent State	at Arizona	Virginia Tech	at Stanford	at Notre Dame	Oregon	UCLA	at Arizona State	Washington	
WASHINGTON STATE	Illinois State (Aug. 30)	at Virginia Tech	at Michigan	Ball State	at Eastern Michigan	Akron	at Notre Dame	at Northern Illinois	at Miami (Oct. 25)	Rutgers	at Syracuse	Temple	Pittsburgh
WEST VIRGINIA	Fresno State (Aug. 25)	Fresno State	Western Kentucky	at Penn State	at Eastern Michigan	Indiana	Bowling Green	at Illinois	Michigan State	at Toledo (Nov. 6)	at Syracuse	Central Michigan	at Minnesota
WISCONSIN	at Oregon	Texas A&M (Sept. 6)	at Kansas	at Utah State	Colorado State	New Mexico	at Air Force	at Utah	UNLV		Brigham Young	at San Diego St.	
WYOMING	Furman												



# All-time Award winners

## Heisman Trophy

(Top player/Downtown Athletic Club of New York)

Year	Player, school, pos.
1935	Jay Berwanger, Chicago, RB
1936	Larry Kelley, Yale, E
1937	Clint Frank, Yale, RB
1938	Davey O'Brien, TCU, QB
1939	Nile Kinnick, Iowa, RB
1940	Tom Harmon, Michigan, RB
1941	Bruce Smith, Minnesota, RB
1942	Frank Sinkwich, Georgia, RB
1943	Angelo Bertelli, Notre Dame, QB
1944	Les Horvath, Ohio State, QB
1945	Doc Blanchard, Army, FB
1946	Glenn Davis, Army, RB
1947	John Lujack, Notre Dame, QB
1948	Doak Walker, SMU, RB
1949	Leon Hart, Notre Dame, E
1950	Vic Janowicz, Ohio State, RB
1951	Dick Kazmaier, Princeton, RB
1952	Billy Vessels, Oklahoma, RB
1953	John Lattner, Notre Dame, RB
1954	Alan Ameche, Wisconsin, FB
1955	Howard Cassady, Ohio State, RB
1956	Paul Hornung, Notre Dame, QB
1957	John David Crow, Texas A&M, RB
1958	Pete Dawkins, Army, RB
1959	Billy Cannon, LSU, RB
1960	Joe Bellino, Navy, RB
1961	Ernie Davis, Syracuse, RB
1962	Terry Baker, Oregon State, QB
1963	Roger Staubach, Navy, QB
1964	John Huarte, Notre Dame, QB
1965	Mike Garrett, USC, RB
1966	Steve Spurrier, Florida, QB
1967	Gary Beban, UCLA, QB
1968	O.J. Simpson, USC, RB
1969	Steve Owens, Oklahoma, RB
1970	Jim Plunkett, Stanford, QB
1971	Pat Sullivan, Auburn, QB
1972	Johnny Rodgers, Nebraska, FL
1973	John Cappelletti, Penn State, RB
1974	Archie Griffin, Ohio State, RB
1975	Archie Griffin, Ohio State, RB
1976	Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh, RB
1977	Earl Campbell, Texas, RB
1978	Billy Sims, Oklahoma, RB
1979	Charles White, USC, RB
1980	George Rogers, South Carolina, RB
1981	Marcus Allen, USC, RB
1982	Herschel Walker, Georgia, RB
1983	Mike Rozier, Nebraska, RB
1984	Doug Flutie, Boston College, QB
1985	Bo Jackson, Auburn, RB
1986	Vinny Testaverde, Miami (Fla.), QB
1987	Tim Brown, Notre Dame, FL
1988	Barry Sanders, Oklahoma State, RB
1989	Andre Ware, Houston, QB
1990	Ty Detmer, BYU, QB
1991	Desmond Howard, Michigan, FL
1992	Gino Torretta, Miami (Fla.), QB
1993	Charlie Ward, Florida State, QB
1994	Rashaan Salaam, Colorado, RB
1995	Eddie George, Ohio State, RB
1996	Danny Wuerffel, Florida, QB
1997	Charles Woodson, Michigan, CB
1998	Ricky Williams, Texas, RB
1999	Ron Dayne, Wisconsin, RB
2000	Chris Weinke, Florida State, QB

## Maxwell Award

(Top player/Maxwell Football Club of Philadelphia)

Year	Player, school, pos.
1937	Clint Frank, Yale, RB
1938	Davey O'Brien, TCU, QB
1939	Nile Kinnick, Iowa, RB
1940	Tom Harmon, Michigan, RB
1941	Bill Dudley, Virginia, RB
1942	Paul Governali, Columbia, QB
1943	Bob Odell, Pennsylvania, RB
1944	Glenn Davis, Army, RB
1945	Doc Blanchard, Army, FB
1946	Charley Trippi, Georgia, RB
1947	Doak Walker, SMU, RB
1948	Chuck Bednarik, Pennsylvania, C
1949	Leon Hart, Notre Dame, E
1950	Reds Bagnell, Pennsylvania, RB
1951	Dick Kazmaier, Princeton, RB
1952	John Lattner, Notre Dame, RB
1953	John Lattner, Notre Dame, RB
1954	Ron Beagle, Navy, E
1955	Howard Cassady, Ohio State, RB
1956	Tommy McDonald, Oklahoma, RB
1957	Bob Reifsnyder, Navy, T
1958	Pete Dawkins, Army, RB
1959	Richie Lucas, Penn State, QB
1960	Joe Bellino, Navy, RB
1961	Bob Ferguson, Ohio State, FB
1962	Terry Baker, Oregon State, QB
1963	Roger Staubach, Navy, QB
1964	Glenn Ressler, Penn State, C
1965	Tommy Nobis, Texas, LB
1966	Jim Lynch, Notre Dame, LB
1967	Gary Beban, UCLA, QB
1968	O.J. Simpson, USC, HB
1969	Mike Reid, Penn State, DT
1970	Jim Plunkett, Stanford, QB
1971	Ed Marinaro, Cornell, RB
1972	Brad Van Pelt, Michigan State, DB
1973	John Cappelletti, Penn State, HB
1974	Steve Joachim, Temple, QB
1975	Archie Griffin, Ohio State, HB
1976	Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh, HB
1977	Ross Browner, Notre Dame, DE
1978	Chuck Fusina, Penn State, QB
1979	Charles White, USC, HB
1980	Hugh Green, Pitt, DE
1981	Marcus Allen, USC, HB
1982	Herschel Walker, Georgia, HB
1983	Mike Rozier, Nebraska, HB
1984	Doug Flutie, Boston College, QB
1985	Chuck Long, Iowa, QB
1986	Vinny Testaverde, Miami (Fla.), QB
1987	Don McPherson, Syracuse, QB
1988	Barry Sanders, Oklahoma State, HB
1989	Anthony Thomas, Indiana, RB
1990	Ty Detmer, BYU, QB
1991	Desmond Howard, Michigan, FL
1992	Gino Torretta, Miami (Fla.), QB
1993	Charlie Ward, Florida State, QB
1994	Kerry Collins, Penn State, QB
1995	Eddie George, Ohio State, HB
1996	Danny Wuerffel, Florida, QB
1997	Peyton Manning, Tennessee, QB
1998	Ricky Williams, Texas, RB
1999	Ron Dayne, Wisconsin, RB
2000	Drew Brees, Purdue, QB

## Outland Trophy

(Top interior lineman/Football Writers Association of America)

Year	Player, school, pos.
1946	George Connor, Notre Dame, T
1947	Joe Steffy, Army, G
1948	Bill Fischer, Notre Dame, G
1949	Ed Bagdon, Michigan State, G
1950	Bob Gain, Kentucky, T
1951	Jim Weatherall, Oklahoma, T
1952	Dick Modzelewski, Maryland, T
1953	J.D. Roberts, Oklahoma, G
1954	Bill Brooks, Arkansas, G
1955	Calvin Jones, Iowa, G
1956	Jim Parker, Ohio State, G
1957	Alex Karras, Iowa, T
1958	Zeke Smith, Auburn, G
1959	Mike McGee, Duke, T
1960	Tom Brown, Minnesota, G
1961	Merlin Olsen, Utah State, T
1962	Bobby Bell, Minnesota, T
1963	Scott Appleton, Texas, T
1964	Steve DeLong, Tennessee, T
1965	Tommy Nobis, Texas, G
1966	Lloyd Phillips, Arkansas, T
1967	Ron Yary, USC, T
1968	Bill Stanfill, Georgia, T
1969	Mike Reid, Penn State, DT
1970	Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State, MG
1971	Larry Jacobson, Nebraska, DT
1972	Rich Glover, Nebraska, MG
1973	John Hicks, Ohio State, OT
1974	Randy White, Maryland, DE
1975	Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma, DT
1976	Ross Browner, Notre Dame, DE
1977	Brad Shearer, Texas, DT
1978	Greg Roberts, Oklahoma, G
1979	Jim Ritcher, North Carolina State, C
1980	Mark May, Pittsburgh, OT
1981	Dave Rimington, Nebraska, C
1982	Dave Rimington, Nebraska, C
1983	Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska, G
1984	Bruce Smith, Virginia Tech, DT
1985	Mike Ruth, Boston College, NG
1986	Jason Buck, BYU, DT
1987	Chad Hennings, Air Force, DT
1988	Tracy Rucker, Auburn, DT
1989	Moe Elewonibi, BYU, G
1990	Russell Maryland, Miami (Fla.), DT
1991	Steve Emtman, Washington, DT
1992	Will Shields, Nebraska, G
1993	Rob Waldrop, Arizona, NG
1994	Zach Wiegert, Nebraska, OT
1995	Jonathan Ogden, UCLA, OT
1996	Orlando Pace, Ohio State, OT
1997	Aaron Taylor, Nebraska, OT
1998	Kris Farris, UCLA, OT
1999	Chris Samuels, Alabama, OT
2000	John Henderson, Tennessee, DT

**Lombardi Award***(Top lineman/Rotary Club of Houston)*

Year	Player, school, pos.
1970	Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State, MG
1971	Walt Patulski, Notre Dame, E
1972	Rich Glover, Nebraska, MG
1973	John Hicks, Ohio State, OT
1974	Randy White, Maryland, DT
1975	Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma, DT
1976	Wilson Whitley, Houston, DT
1977	Ross Browner, Notre Dame, E
1978	Bruce Clark, Penn State, DT
1979	Brad Budde, USC, G
1980	Hugh Green, Pitt, E
1981	Kenneth Sims, Texas, DT
1982	Dave Rimington, Nebraska, C
1983	Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska, G
1984	Tony Degrade, Texas, DT
1985	Tony Casillas, Oklahoma, NG
1986	Cornelius Bennett, Alabama, LB
1987	Chris Spielman, Ohio State, LB
1988	Tracy Rocker, Auburn, DT
1989	Percy Snow, Michigan State, LB
1990	Chris Zorich, Notre Dame, DT
1991	Steve Emtman, Washington, DT
1992	Marvin Jones, Florida State, LB
1993	Aaron Taylor, Notre Dame, OT
1994	Warren Sapp, Miami (Fla.), DT
1995	Orlando Pace, Ohio State, OT
1996	Orlando Pace, Ohio State, OT
1997	Grant Wistrom, Nebraska, E
1998	Dat Nguyen, Texas A&M, LB
1999	Corey Moore, Virginia Tech, E
2000	Jamal Reynolds, Florida State, E

**Davey O'Brien Award***(Top quarterback/Davey O'Brien Educational and Charitable Trust of Fort Worth, Texas)*

Year	Player, school
1981	Jim McMahon, BYU
1982	Todd Blackledge, Penn State
1983	Steve Young, BYU
1984	Doug Flutie, Boston College
1985	Chuck Long, Iowa
1986	Vinny Testaverde, Miami (Fla.)
1987	Don McPherson, Syracuse
1988	Troy Aikman, UCLA
1989	Andre Ware, Houston
1990	Ty Detmer, BYU
1991	Ty Detmer, BYU
1992	Gino Torretta, Miami (Fla.)
1993	Charlie Ward, Florida State
1994	Kerry Collins, Penn State
1995	Danny Wuerffel, Florida
1996	Danny Wuerffel, Florida
1997	Peyton Manning, Tennessee
1998	Michael Bishop, Kansas State
1999	Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech
2000	Chris Weinke, Florida State

**Butkus Award***(Top linebacker/Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando, Fla.)*

Year	Player, school
1985	Brian Bosworth, Oklahoma
1986	Brian Bosworth, Oklahoma
1987	Paul McGowan, Florida State
1988	Derrick Thomas, Alabama
1989	Percy Snow, Michigan State
1990	Alfred Williams, Colorado
1991	Erick Anderson, Michigan
1992	Marvin Jones, Florida State
1993	Trev Alberts, Nebraska
1994	Dana Howard, Illinois
1995	Kevin Hardy, Illinois
1996	Matt Russell, Colorado
1997	Andy Katzenmoyer, Ohio State
1998	Chris Claiborne, USC
1999	LaVar Arrington, Penn State
2000	Dan Morgan, Miami

**Jim Thorpe Award***(Top defensive back/Jim Thorpe Athletic Club of Oklahoma City)*

Year	Player, school
1986	Thomas Everett, Baylor
1987	Bennie Blades, Miami (Fla.)
	Rickey Dixon, Oklahoma
1988	Deion Sanders, Florida State
1989	Mark Carrier, USC
1990	Darryll Lewis, Arizona
1991	Terrell Buckley, Florida State
1992	Deon Figures, Colorado
1993	Antonio Langham, Alabama
1994	Chris Hudson, Colorado
1995	Greg Myers, Colorado State
1996	Lawrence Wright, Florida
1997	Charles Woodson, Michigan
1998	Antoine Winfield, Ohio State
1999	Tyrone Carter, Minnesota
2000	Jamar Fletcher, Wisconsin

**Doak Walker Award***(Top junior or senior running back/GTE SMU Athletic Forum of Dallas)*

Year	Player, school
1990	Greg Lewis, Washington
1991	Trevor Cobb, Rice
1992	Garrison Hearst, Georgia
1993	Byron Morris, Texas Tech
1994	Rashaan Salaam, Colorado
1995	Eddie George, Ohio State
1996	Byron Hanspard, Texas Tech
1997	Ricky Williams, Texas
1998	Ricky Williams, Texas
1999	Ron Dayne, Wisconsin
2000	LaDainian Tomlinson, TCU

**Biletnikoff Award***(Top receiver/Tallahassee Quarterback Club of Tallahassee, Fla.)*

Year	Player, school
1994	Bobby Engram, Penn State
1995	Terry Glenn, Ohio State
1996	Marcus Harris, Wyoming
1997	Randy Moss, Marshall
1998	Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech
1999	Troy Walters, Stanford
2000	Antonio Bryant, Pittsburgh

**Groza Award***(Top kicker/Palm Beach County Sports Authority)*

Year	Player, school
1992	Joe Allison, Memphis
1993	Judd Davis, Florida
1994	Steve McLaughlin, Arizona
1995	Michael Reeder, TCU
1996	Marc Primanti, North Carolina State
1997	Martin Gramatica, Kansas State
1998	Sebastian Janikowski, Florida State
1999	Sebastian Janikowski, Florida State
2000	Jonathan Ruffin, Cincinnati

**Johnny Unitas Award***(Top senior quarterback/Kentucky chapter of National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame)*

Year	Player, school
1987	Don McPherson, Syracuse
1988	Rodney Peete, USC
1989	Tony Rice, Notre Dame
1990	Craig Erickson, Miami (Fla.)
1991	Casey Weldon, Florida State
1992	Gino Torretta, Miami (Fla.)
1993	Charlie Ward, Florida State
1994	Jay Barker, Alabama
1995	Tommie Frazier, Nebraska
1996	Danny Wuerffel, Florida
1997	Peyton Manning, Tennessee
1998	Cade McNown, UCLA
1999	Chris Redman, Louisville
2000	Chris Weinke, Florida State

**Bronko Nagurski Award***(Top defensive player/Football Writers Association of America)*

Year	Player, school, pos.
1993	Rob Waldrop, Arizona, DL
1994	Warren Sapp, Miami (Fla.), DT
1995	Pat Fitzgerald, Northwestern, LB
1996	Pat Fitzgerald, Northwestern, LB
1997	Charles Woodson, Michigan, CB
1998	Champ Bailey, Georgia, CB
1999	Corey Moore, Virginia Tech, E
2000	Dan Morgan, Miami (Fla.), LB



# 2000 Standings

## ACC

	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA
Florida State	8-0	395	86	11-2	511	136
Clemson	6-2	280	189	9-3	416	257
Georgia Tech	6-2	284	164	9-3	386	237
Virginia	5-3	138	169	6-6	242	292
NC State	4-4	221	239	8-4	379	338
North Carolina	3-5	199	243	6-5	269	284
Maryland	3-5	168	217	5-6	247	284
Wake Forest	1-7	106	299	2-9	181	362
Duke	0-8	143	328	0-11	155	430

## Big East

	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA
Miami	7-0	310	67	11-1	506	190
Virginia Tech	6-1	260	156	11-1	484	269
Pittsburgh	4-3	174	167	7-5	296	247
Syracuse	4-3	162	145	6-5	294	212
West Virginia	3-4	179	226	7-5	356	363
Boston College	3-4	173	205	7-5	378	277
Temple	1-6	117	192	4-7	224	269
Rutgers	0-7	95	312	3-8	233	399

## Big Ten

	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA
Purdue	6-2	243	199	8-4	381	266
Michigan	6-2	273	164	9-3	404	229
Northwestern	6-2	337	271	8-4	441	400
Ohio State	5-3	227	155	8-4	331	222
Wisconsin	4-4	199	172	9-4	328	265
Minnesota	4-4	247	238	6-6	375	318
Penn State	4-4	186	221	5-7	264	293
Iowa	3-5	148	210	3-9	203	330
Illinois	2-6	193	252	5-6	294	286
Michigan State	2-6	123	178	5-6	197	233
Indiana	2-6	223	339	3-8	337	427

## Big 12

	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA
Nebraska	6-2	338	163	10-2	522	230
Kansas State	6-3	302	213	11-3	549	261
Iowa State	5-3	220	242	9-3	343	322
Colorado	3-5	200	222	3-8	252	284
Kansas	2-6	179	308	4-7	261	359
Missouri	2-6	186	253	3-8	255	348

## South

Oklahoma	9-0	326	157	13-0	481	194
Texas	7-1	301	160	9-3	455	232
Texas A&M	5-3	201	152	7-5	348	239
Texas Tech	3-5	202	212	7-6	330	278
Oklahoma State	1-7	137	249	3-8	202	303
Baylor	0-8	82	343	2-9	139	397

## Big West

	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA
Boise State	5-0	267	107	10-2	532	274
Utah State	4-0	174	160	5-6	292	356
Idaho	3-2	140	177	5-6	321	377
North Texas	1-4	84	168	3-8	162	300
N. Mexico State	1-4	167	181	3-8	295	357
Arkansas State	1-4	152	191	1-10	247	410

## Conference USA

	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA
Louisville	6-1	255	159	9-3	405	268
Cincinnati	5-2	187	165	7-5	289	285
East Carolina	5-2	206	125	8-4	370	256
Southern Miss	4-3	180	150	8-4	314	203
UAB	3-3	124	133	7-4	238	192
Tulane	3-4	192	205	6-5	329	346
Memphis	2-5	109	146	4-7	176	199
Houston	2-5	154	249	3-8	211	370
Army	1-6	129	204	1-10	224	372

## Mid-American

## East

	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA
Marshall	6-3	240	222	8-5	367	297
Ohio	5-3	253	152	7-4	343	208
Akron	5-3	240	181	6-5	333	295
Miami (O)	5-3	208	184	6-5	272	286
Buffalo	3-5	149	306	3-8	177	452
Bowling Green	2-6	137	182	2-9	174	289
Kent State	1-7	91	258	1-10	128	359

## West

Toledo	6-1	255	79	10-1	396	125
W. Michigan	7-2	269	95	9-3	359	135
N. Illinois	4-3	286	194	6-5	409	280
Ball State	3-4	150	209	4-7	212	349
E. Michigan	2-5	121	204	3-8	209	350
C. Michigan	2-6	117	250	2-9	137	376

## Mountain West

	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA
Colorado State	6-1	217	150	10-2	363	225
Air Force	5-2	230	198	9-3	421	312
UNLV	4-3	167	142	8-5	370	275
BYU	4-3	159	146	6-6	280	310
New Mexico	3-4	141	125	5-7	229	249
Utah	3-4	154	114	4-7	234	207
San Diego State	3-4	144	162	3-8	170	273
Wyoming	0-7	87	262	1-10	170	393

## Pac-10

	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA
Oregon State	7-1	275	161	11-1	400	212
Washington	7-1	258	183	11-1	387	270
Oregon	7-1	215	172	10-2	351	249
Stanford	4-4	193	210	5-6	261	294
UCLA	3-5	251	282	6-6	353	368
Arizona State	3-5	229	235	6-6	313	303
Arizona	3-5	203	204	5-6	254	237
USC	2-6	208	256	5-7	309	337
Washington St.	2-6	167	260	4-7	281	354
California	2-6	204	240	3-8	246	295

## SEC

## East

	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA
Florida	8-1	346	187	10-3	468	273
Tennessee	5-3	251	176	8-4	380	247
Georgia	5-3	213	164	8-4	331	212
South Carolina	5-3	173	152	8-4	283	181
Vanderbilt	1-7	120	223	3-8	193	273
Kentucky	0-8	152	300	2-9	254	383

## West

Auburn	6-3	184	172	9-4	316	266
LSU	5-3	196	195	8-4	320	235
Mississippi	4-4	187	210	7-5	352	329
Mississippi St.	4-4	225	199	8-4	390	306
Arkansas	3-5	136	221	6-6	278	289
Alabama	3-5	166	150	3-8	228	246

## Western Athletic

	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA
TCU	7-1	293	89	10-2	431	134
UTEP	7-1	283	167	8-4	378	336
Fresno State	6-2	235	144	7-5	317	251
San Jose State	5-3	250	240	7-5	374	357
Tulsa	4-4	155	165	5-7	240	283
Rice	2-6	186	215	3-8	237	322
SMU	2-6	118	248	3-9	181	352
Hawaii	2-6	197	276	3-9	294	399
Nevada	1-7	144	317	2-10	207	464

## Independents

	W-L	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA
Notre Dame	9-3	353	267			
Central Florida	7-4	333	221			
Middle Tennessee	6-5	350	316			
Connecticut	3-8	217	368			
Louisiana Tech	3-9	317	396			
Navy	1-10	182	391			
Louisiana-Monroe	1-10	89	415			
Louisiana-Lafayette	1-10	171	355			

# National champions

Year	AP	Coaches	TSN
1936	Minnesota	-	-
1937	Pittsburgh	-	-
1938	Texas Christian	-	-
1939	Texas A&M	-	-
1940	Minnesota	-	-
1941	Minnesota	-	-
1942	Ohio State	-	-
1943	Notre Dame	-	-
1944	Army	-	-
1945	Army	-	-
1946	Notre Dame	-	-
1947	Notre Dame	-	-
1948	Michigan	-	-
1949	Notre Dame	-	-
1950	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	-
1951	Tennessee	Tennessee	-
1952	Michigan State	Michigan State	-
1953	Maryland	Maryland	-
1954	Ohio State	UCLA	-
1955	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	-
1956	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	-
1957	Auburn	Ohio State	-
1958	Louisiana State	Louisiana State	-
1959	Syracuse	Syracuse	-
1960	Minnesota	Minnesota	-
1961	Alabama	Alabama	-
1962	USC	USC	-
1963	Texas	Texas	-
1964	Alabama	Alabama	-
1965	Alabama	Michigan State	-
1966	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	-
1967	USC	USC	-
1968	Ohio State	Ohio State	-
1969	Texas	Texas	-

Year	AP	Coaches	TSN
1970	Nebraska	Texas	-
1971	Nebraska	Nebraska	-
1972	USC	USC	-
1973	Notre Dame	Alabama	-
1974	Oklahoma	USC	-
1975	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Arizona State
1976	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
1977	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
1978	Alabama	USC	USC
1979	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
1980	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia
1981	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
1982	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State
1983	Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)
1984	BYU	BYU	Florida
1985	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
1986	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State
1987	Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)
1988	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
1989	Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)
1990	Colorado	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech
1991	Miami (Fla.)	Washington	Washington
1992	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
1993	Florida State	Florida State	Florida State
1994	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska
1995	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska
1996	Florida	Florida	Florida
1997	Michigan	Nebraska	Michigan
1998	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
1999	Florida State	Florida State	Florida State
2000	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma

NOTE: The coaches' poll switched its affiliation from United Press International to ESPN/USA Today in 1991.

## 2000 bowl results

Bowl	Outcome
Orange	Oklahoma 13, Florida State 2
Sugar	Miami 37, Florida 20
Fiesta	Oregon State 41, Notre Dame 9
Rose	Washington 34, Purdue 24
Citrus	Michigan 31, Auburn 28
Gator	Virginia Tech 41, Clemson 20
Cotton	Kansas State 35, Tennessee 21
Outback	South Carolina 24, Ohio State 7
Independence	Mississippi State 43, Texas A&M 41 (OT)
Silicon Valley Classic	Air Force 37, Fresno State 34
Sun	Wisconsin 21, UCLA 20
Peach	LSU 28, Georgia Tech 14
Liberty	Colorado State 22, Louisville 17
Holiday	Oregon 35, Texas 30
Alamo	Nebraska 66, Northwestern 17
Music City	West Virginia 49, Mississippi 38
Humanitarian	Boise State 38, UTEP 23
Insight.com	Iowa State 37, Pittsburgh 29
Micronpc.com	NC State 38, Minnesota 30
Motor City	Marshall 25, Cincinnati 14
Galleryfurniture.com	East Carolina 40, Texas Tech 27
Aloha	Boston College 31, Arizona State 17
Oahu	Georgia 37, Virginia 14
Las Vegas	UNLV 31, Arkansas 14
Mobile Alabama	Southern Mississippi 28, TCU 21

## Final 2000 polls

AP	USA Today/ESPN	TSN
1. Oklahoma	1. Oklahoma	1. Oklahoma
2. Miami	2. Miami	2. Miami
3. Washington	3. Washington	3. Washington
4. Oregon State	4. Florida State	4. Oregon State
5. Florida State	5. Oregon State	5. Florida State
6. Virginia Tech	6. Virginia Tech	6. Virginia Tech
7. Oregon	7. Nebraska	7. Nebraska
8. Nebraska	8. Kansas State	8. Oregon
9. Kansas State	9. Oregon	9. Kansas State
10. Florida	10. Michigan	10. Florida
11. Michigan	11. Florida	11. Michigan
12. Texas	12. Texas	12. Texas
13. Purdue	13. Purdue	13. Purdue
14. Colorado State	14. Clemson	14. Georgia Tech
15. Notre Dame	15. Colorado State	15. South Carolina
16. Clemson	16. Notre Dame	16. Colorado State
17. Georgia Tech	17. Georgia	17. Clemson
18. Auburn	18. Texas Christian	18. Notre Dame
19. South Carolina	19. Georgia Tech	19. Iowa State
20. Georgia	20. Auburn	20. Auburn
21. Texas Christian	21. South Carolina	21. Louisiana State
22. Louisiana State	22. Mississippi State	22. Wisconsin
23. Wisconsin	23. Iowa State	23. Northwestern
24. Mississippi State	24. Wisconsin	24. Texas Christian
25. Iowa State	25. Tennessee	25. Tennessee



# Bowl schedule

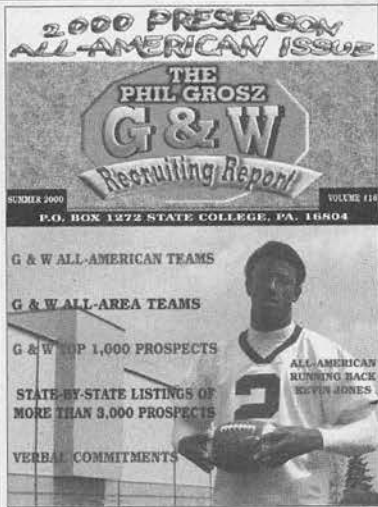
Bowl	Date	Site	TV	Matchup
Rose	Thursday, January 3	Pasadena, Calif.	ABC	Bowl Championship Series No. 1 vs. No. 2
Orange	Wednesday, January 2	Miami	ABC	Bowl Championship Series
Jeep Seattle#	Wednesday, January 2	Seattle	ESPN	Pac-10 No. 4 or 5 vs. ACC
Sugar	Tuesday, January 1	New Orleans	ABC	Bowl Championship Series
Fiesta	Tuesday, January 1	Tempe, Ariz.	ABC	Bowl Championship Series
Citrus	Tuesday, January 1	Orlando	ABC	Big Ten No. 2 vs. SEC No. 2
Gator	Tuesday, January 1	Jacksonville, Fla.	NBC	ACC No. 2 vs. Big East No. 2 or Notre Dame
Outback	Tuesday, January 1	Tampa	ESPN	SEC No. 3, 4 or 5 vs. Big Ten No. 4
Cotton	Tuesday, January 1	Dallas	FSN	SEC No. 3, 4 or 5 vs. Big 12 No. 2
Silicon Valley	Monday, December 31	San Jose, Calif.	FSN	WAC No. 1 or 2 vs. at-large team
Peach	Monday, December 31	Atlanta	ESPN	ACC No. 3 vs. SEC No. 3, 4 or 5
Liberty	Monday, December 31	Memphis	ESPN	C-USA No. 1 vs. Mountain West No. 1
Sun	Monday, December 31	El Paso, Texas	CBS	Pac-10 No. 3 vs. Big Ten No. 5
San Francisco Jeep^	Sunday, December 30	San Francisco	ABC	Pac-10 No. 4 or 5 vs. Big East
Insight.com	Saturday, December 29	Phoenix	ESPN	Big East No. 3 or Notre Dame vs. Big 12 No. 5
Alamo	Saturday, December 29	San Antonio, Texas	ESPN	Big Ten No. 3 vs. Big 12 No. 4
Motor City	Saturday, December 29	Pontiac, Mich.	ESPN	MAC No. 1 vs. C-USA No. 4
Holiday	Friday, December 28	San Diego	ESPN	Pac-10 No. 2 vs. Big 12 No. 3
Music City Bowl	Friday, December 28	Nashville, Tenn.	ESPN	SEC No. 6 or 7 vs. Big East No. 4
Humanitarian	Friday, December 28	Boise, Idaho	ESPN	WAC No. 3 vs. at-large team
Galleryfurniture.com	Friday, December 28	Houston	ESPN	Big 12 No. 7 vs. C-USA No. 3
Micronpc.com	*Friday, December 28	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	TBS	ACC No. 4 vs. Big Ten No. 6
Independence	Thursday, December 27	Shreveport, La.	ESPN	SEC No. 6 or 7 vs. Big 12 No. 6
Las Vegas	Thursday, December 20	Las Vegas	ESPN	Mountain West No. 2 vs. at-large team
Mobile Alabama	Wednesday, December 19	Mobile, Alabama	ESPN2	MAC No. 2 vs. C-USA No. 2
New Orleans	Tuesday, December 18	New Orleans	ESPN2	Sun Belt No. 1 vs. Mountain West No. 3**

#Formerly Oahu Bowl. ^Formerly Aloha Bowl. \*Date tentative pending NCAA certification. \*\*Subject to approval by Mountain West Board of Directors.

## Division I-A coaching changes

School	Former coach	New coach	New coach's former position
Alabama	Mike DuBose	Dennis Franchione	TCU head coach
Arizona	Dick Tomey	John Mackovic	Television analyst
Arizona State	Bruce Snyder	Dirk Koetter	Boise State head coach
Boise State	Dirk Koetter	Dan Hawkins	Boise State assistant head coach (special teams/tight ends)
Bowling Green	Gary Blackney	Urban Meyer	Notre Dame receivers coach
Buffalo	Craig Cirbus	Jim Hofher	Syracuse quarterbacks coach
BYU	LaVell Edwards	Gary Crowton	Chicago Bears offensive coordinator
Georgia	Jim Donnan	Mark Richt	Florida State offensive coordinator
Kentucky	Hal Mumme	Guy Morriss	Kentucky assistant head coach (offensive line)
Maryland	Ron Vanderlinden	Ralph Friedgen	Georgia Tech offensive coordinator
Memphis	Rip Scherer	Tommy West	Memphis defensive coordinator
Miami (Fla.)	Butch Davis	Larry Coker	Miami offensive coordinator
Missouri	Larry Smith	Gary Pinkel	Toledo head coach
North Carolina	Carl Torbush	John Bunting	New Orleans Saints linebackers coach
Ohio	Jim Grobe	Brian Knorr	Ohio defensive coordinator
Ohio State	John Cooper	Jim Tressel	Youngstown State head coach
Oklahoma State	Bob Simmons	Les Miles	Dallas Cowboys tight ends coach
Rutgers	Terry Shea	Greg Schiano	Miami defensive coordinator
San Jose State	Dave Baldwin	Fitz Hill	Arkansas assistant head coach (wide receivers)
Southern California	Paul Hackett	Pete Carroll	Consultant for NFL teams
TCU	Dennis Franchione	Gary Patterson	TCU defensive coordinator
Toledo	Gary Pinkel	Tom Amstutz	Toledo defensive coordinator
Virginia	George Welsh	Al Groh	New York Jets head coach
Wake Forest	Jim Caldwell	Jim Grobe	Ohio head coach
West Virginia	Don Nehlen	Rich Rodriguez	Clemson offensive coordinator

# The Sports MARKETPLACE



Compiled by Phil Grosz --

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- Top players' college visits plus hot rumors
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# The Sporting News

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

### SURVEY



"Yo, it's Fly. The boss wants to know what you think about college football and this yearbook. Fly's talkin' about the inside scoop on the pigskin preppies from 'The Bible of Sports.' Tell *The Sporting News* what you think and you get a shot at some great stuff."

All you have to do is answer the following questions and return this survey to the address on the next page by October 1, 2001, and you'll be entered in a drawing for one of five free, one-year subscriptions to *The Sporting News* OR one of 25 copies of *The Sporting News*' ultimate trivia book, "So, You Think You Know Sports?"

"Get goin'. I'll see you in the sports pages."

1. Going into the 2001 season, which Division I-A conference do you feel is the strongest?
  - ☐ ACC ☐ Big East ☐ Big Ten
  - ☐ Big 12 ☐ C-USA ☐ Mtn. West
  - ☐ Pac-10 ☐ SEC ☐ WAC
2. Which conference do you follow most closely?
  - ☐ ACC ☐ Big East ☐ Big Ten
  - ☐ Big 12 ☐ Sun Belt ☐ C-USA
  - ☐ MAC ☐ Mtn. West ☐ Pac-10
  - ☐ SEC ☐ WAC
3. The third year of the Bowl Championship Series produced a "national championship" matchup of Oklahoma vs. Florida State. Did the BCS system match the two best teams in the country in the Orange Bowl last season?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Do you favor a playoff to determine college football's Division I-A national champion?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 4a. If yes, how many teams should be involved?
  - ☐ 2 ☐ 4 ☐ 8 ☐ 16
5. How do you feel about the current number of bowl games?
  - ☐ There are too many
  - ☐ There aren't enough
  - ☐ There are just the right number
6. Do you follow the NFL as much as college football?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
7. When should college players be allowed to enter the NFL draft?
  - ☐ After four college seasons
  - ☐ After three college seasons
  - ☐ Whenever they like
8. Most strong programs schedule at least one non-conference game against a weak opponent. If you were the athletic director, how many cream-puff games would you schedule?
  - ☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4
9. Where do you get most of your college football information?
  - ☐ *The Sporting News*
  - ☐ Other magazines
  - ☐ Newspapers
  - ☐ Television
  - ☐ Radio ☐ Internet
  - ☐ School-specific publications
10. Is this your first purchase of *TSN's College Football* yearbook?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 10a. If not, how many times have you bought previously?
  - ☐ 1 ☐ 2-3 ☐ 4-5
  - ☐ 6-10 ☐ over 10
11. Ideally, when would you like to purchase *TSN's College Football* yearbook?
  - ☐ June 15 ☐ June 30
  - ☐ July 15 ☐ July 31
12. What factors influenced you to buy *TSN's College Football* yearbook? (Check all that apply.)
  - ☐ Overall editorial content
  - ☐ Graphic presentation
  - ☐ Cover ☐ Price
  - ☐ Name recognition
13. Which do you prefer?
  - ☐ Coverage of the entire nation
  - ☐ Coverage of my favorite league
14. Would you like to see Coverage of Division I-AA restored if it meant eliminating about half of the editorial content on pages 1 through 43?
  - ☐ Yes ☐ No

15. If we could devote more or less space to certain sections (without changing the overall number of pages), how would you like to see that space used?

More pages    Fewer pages    Perfect as is

\_\_\_\_ Feature articles  
\_\_\_\_ League previews  
\_\_\_\_ Scouting the nation and conferences  
\_\_\_\_ Predictions (conference races, All-American teams, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_ Division I-AA

16. Would you like to see coverage of Divisions II and III?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

17. Would you like to see more coverage of high school recruiting?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

18. Anything else we should change to improve *TSN's College Football* yearbook?

\_\_\_\_\_

19. Overall, how would you rate this yearbook?

☐ Excellent    ☐ Very good  
☐ Good    ☐ Average  
☐ Below average

20. Do you refer to *TSN's College Football* yearbook throughout the season?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

- 20a. If yes, how often?

☐ Weekly    ☐ Monthly  
☐ Constantly

21. How many other people read your copy of *TSN's College Football* yearbook?

☐ 0    ☐ 1    ☐ 2  
☐ 3    ☐ 4-5    ☐ 6-10  
☐ 11-15    ☐ More than 15

22. Which other yearbooks from *The Sporting News* do you read? (Check all that apply.)

☐ Pro Football  
☐ Pro Football Draft Guide  
☐ Fantasy Football  
☐ Baseball  
☐ Fantasy Baseball  
☐ Pro Basketball  
☐ College Basketball  
☐ Hockey  
☐ Auto Racing

23. If it were possible to order all or some of *The Sporting News* yearbooks as a package and have them delivered to you by mail, would you be interested?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

24. Do you buy yearbooks from other companies?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

- 24a. If yes, which ones?

☐ Athlon  
☐ Lindy's  
☐ Street & Smith's  
☐ Preview Sports  
☐ Other

25. Do you read *The Sporting News* weekly magazine?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

26. Have you ever seen or used *The Sporting News* website (sportingnews.com)?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

27. How many college football games do you attend in a season?

☐ 0    ☐ 1-3    ☐ 4-6  
☐ 7-10    ☐ More than 10

28. Is your favorite team in any of the four professional sports outside your local market?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

29. Have you ever traveled to attend a sporting event outside your local market?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

30. Do you wear merchandise featuring your teams' logos?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

31. Have you ever watched a sporting event on pay-per-view?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

32. Which credit card do you prefer using?

☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard  
☐ American Express  
☐ Discover  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

33. Please check the category that includes your age.

☐ Under 18    ☐ 18-24  
☐ 25-29    ☐ 30-34  
☐ 35-44    ☐ 45-54  
☐ 55-64    ☐ Over 64

34. Are you...

☐ Male?    ☐ Female?

35. Are you...

☐ Married?    ☐ Single?

36. Did you attend or graduate from college?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

37. Which of the following categories contains your approximate total household income, before taxes, for 1999? (Please include total earnings for all members of your household from all sources.)

☐ Under \$20,000  
☐ \$20,000-\$29,999  
☐ \$30,000-\$39,999  
☐ \$40,000-\$49,999  
☐ \$50,000-\$74,999  
☐ \$75,000-\$99,999  
☐ \$100,000-\$199,999  
☐ Over \$200,000

This portion is for our records and for your registration for the drawing. It will be kept **CONFIDENTIAL** and separate from your sports poll answers.

Please fill in the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the survey to:

**The Sporting News**  
**College Football Survey**  
P.O. Box 1040  
Millburn, NJ 07041



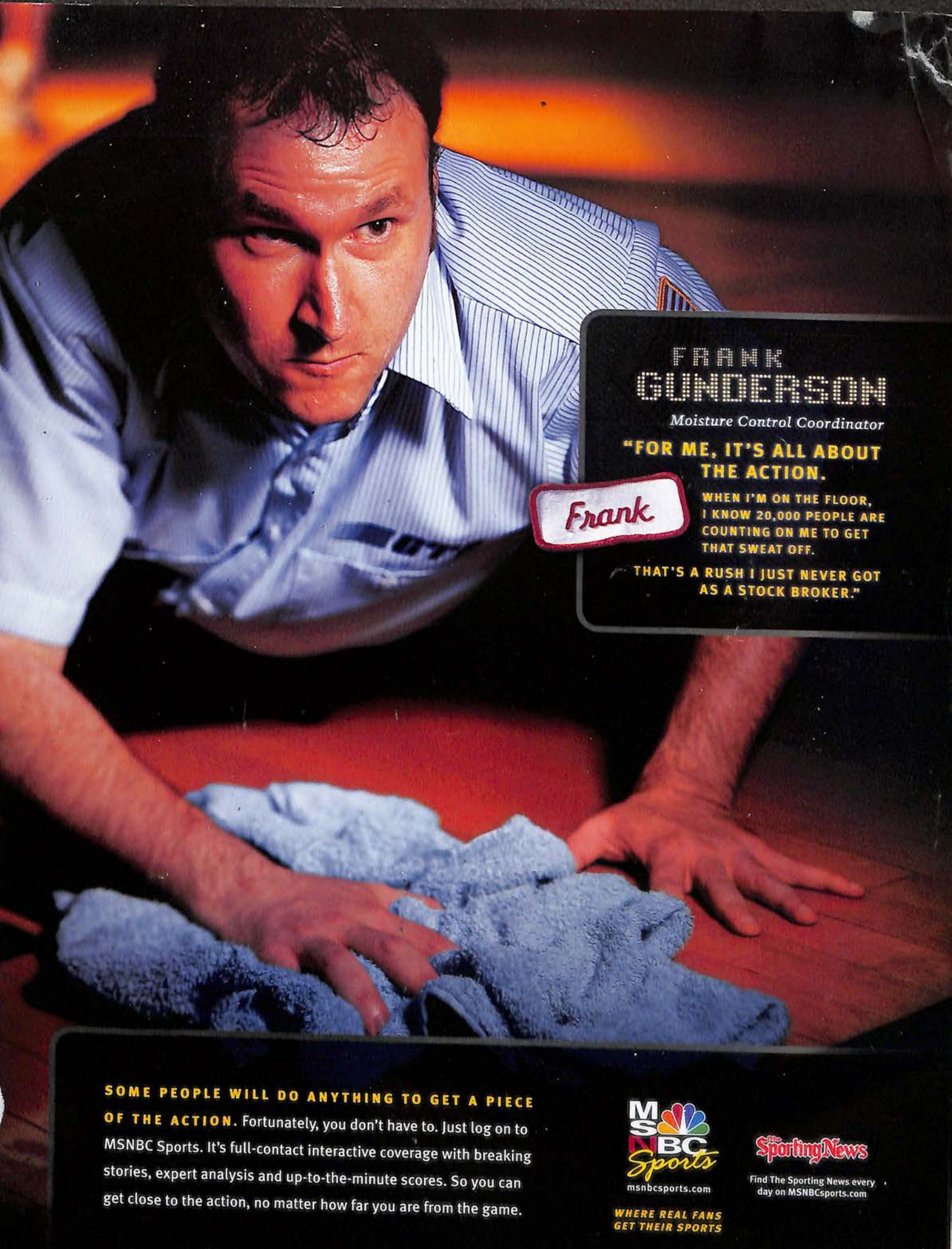
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